Torres wants any new post that's funded by ARPA to require his OK. PAGE 3
NMC-CREES granted $620K to conduct Food Systems research. PAGE 5

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

$1

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXI, Issue No. 213

www.saipantribune.com | WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 27, 2021 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

2.7K kid doses of Pfizer pre-ordered

COVID vaccines for 5-11 age group expected by early Nov.

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. recently pre-ordered 2,700 doses of pediatric Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines intended for children aged 5 to 11 years old. CHCC's pre-order comes in anticipation of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention approving the Pfizer vaccine for use in this age group, with U.S. health officials predicting that CDC approval may come as early as the first half of November.

See 2.7K on Page 4

PEEKABOO WITH A METAL SHARK
The USS *Frank Cable*, which is a submarine tender, is currently docked at the Port of Saipan for a port call and is accompanied by an unidentified nuclear-powered U.S. Navy Los Angeles class submarine, shown here nestling along the starboard side of *Frank Cable*. The Navy considers nuclear submarines, their movements, tactics, and operations to be among the most closely-held of secrets. The United States currently has approximately 32 commissioned Los Angeles-class boats (submarines are often referred to as "boats" while most surface combatants are called "ships").

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

US details new int'l COVID-19 travel protocol

By ZEKE MILLER and DAVID KOENIG
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)— Children under 18 and people from dozens of countries with a shortage of vaccines will be

See US on Page 4

JGO finds Dela Cruz's affidavit unsatisfactory

JGO wants her to personally appear at hearing

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee has deemed the sworn affidavit of Frances M. Dela Cruz to be unsatisfactory. That prompted the committee to decide yesterday to still summon the executive assistant of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres before the

See JGO on Page 4

Moderna, J&J booster shots now available

Mix-and-match dosing for booster shots OK'd

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force will now be offering booster shots for both Moderna and Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 vaccines.

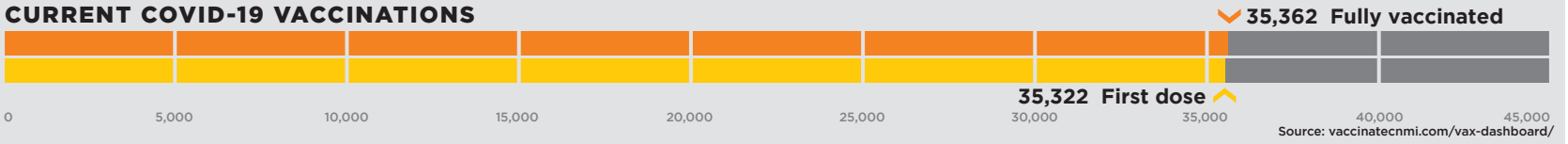
In a statement yesterday, CHCC said the booster shots are being offered under the guidance from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Food and Drug Administration.

The Moderna booster shots are being offered to the following individuals at least six months after their initial series: 65 years and older; 18 years and older who have underlying medical conditions; and 18 years and older who work or live in high-risk settings.

Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine booster shots are also available to individuals aged 18 or older, at

See MODERNA on Page 4

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

AT A GLANCE

As of 6:10pm, Oct. 26, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated:	83.4%
Days since last community transmission	216

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	30,434
Fully Vaccinated:	29,791
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,888
Fully Vaccinated:	4,725
Janssen	
Fully Vaccinated:	846

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	17,671	152	17,823
Recovered	15,373	105	15,478
Active	1,963	152	2,115
Deaths	227	3	230

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	291	0	291
Traced via Travel Screening	254	0	254
Traced via Community Screening	37	0	37
Deaths	3	0	3

Source: Joint Information Center – Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

INSIDE

BUSINESS
AM Best affirms the Superior ratings of Tokio Marine Pacific Insurance Ltd. (Guam).
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NATION
Police say they exchanged gunfire with a suspect during a shooting at a shopping mall in Boise.
PAGE 12

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING
Check out these home redecorating tips for vertical space that will save you space and money.
PAGE 14

TOKIO MARINE

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

CUC restores network system but…

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s network system has been restored, according to a CUC press release yesterday.

It said that CUC employees are once again able to access the Customer Information and Billing System but CUC's Customer Service Representatives are still limited and operating manually until the system is fully updated.

"It is important to note that the system is still being updated, which means that some customers will not have a precise balance on their account at this time. For some customers, charges and payments require manual updating to bring their accounts up to date. All manual transactions processed while the system was offline are also being updated onto customer's accounts. Thus, when making utility payments online or at one of our CUC Customer Centers, your account balance and payment receipts may not reflect an updated balance. CUC staff will need a few days to reconcile and update the accounts, as well as enter all manual transactions that were processed while the system was offline the past few weeks.

"CUC would like to assure all its customers that all data will be restored on the system and will reflect an accurate account of each customer's balance upon full restoration. … Continue to bring in your latest utility billing when visiting the CUC Customer Center for better assistance.

"Customers are also advised that utility bills scheduled to be mailed during this recovery period are delayed. CUC will not penalize customers for late payments or disconnect any delinquent customer as a result of our system being down. More importantly, CUC assures all its customers that any personal data on CUC's systems are secured and inaccessible to unauthorized users.

"As for CUC's Financial System, restoration is still ongoing and is expected to be restored soon.

"Please visit CUC's website at www.cucgov.org or its Facebook page for updates on this matter. For emergencies or customer service assistance over the phone, call (670) 664-4282 to speak with a Customer Service Representative.

"CUC encourages its customers to make payments at Bank of Guam, Bank of Saipan, or at any of the CUC Customer Centers on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota," the press release stated. ***(PR)***

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Complimentary Halloween Welcome Drink for all reservations!
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Torres wants any new post that's funded by ARPA to require his OK

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Effective immediately, any new position that will be funded using American Rescue Plan Act money will require the approval of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

This, Torres said in a memorandum to all department and activity heads yesterday, is intended "to prevent abuse and waste of ARPA funds."

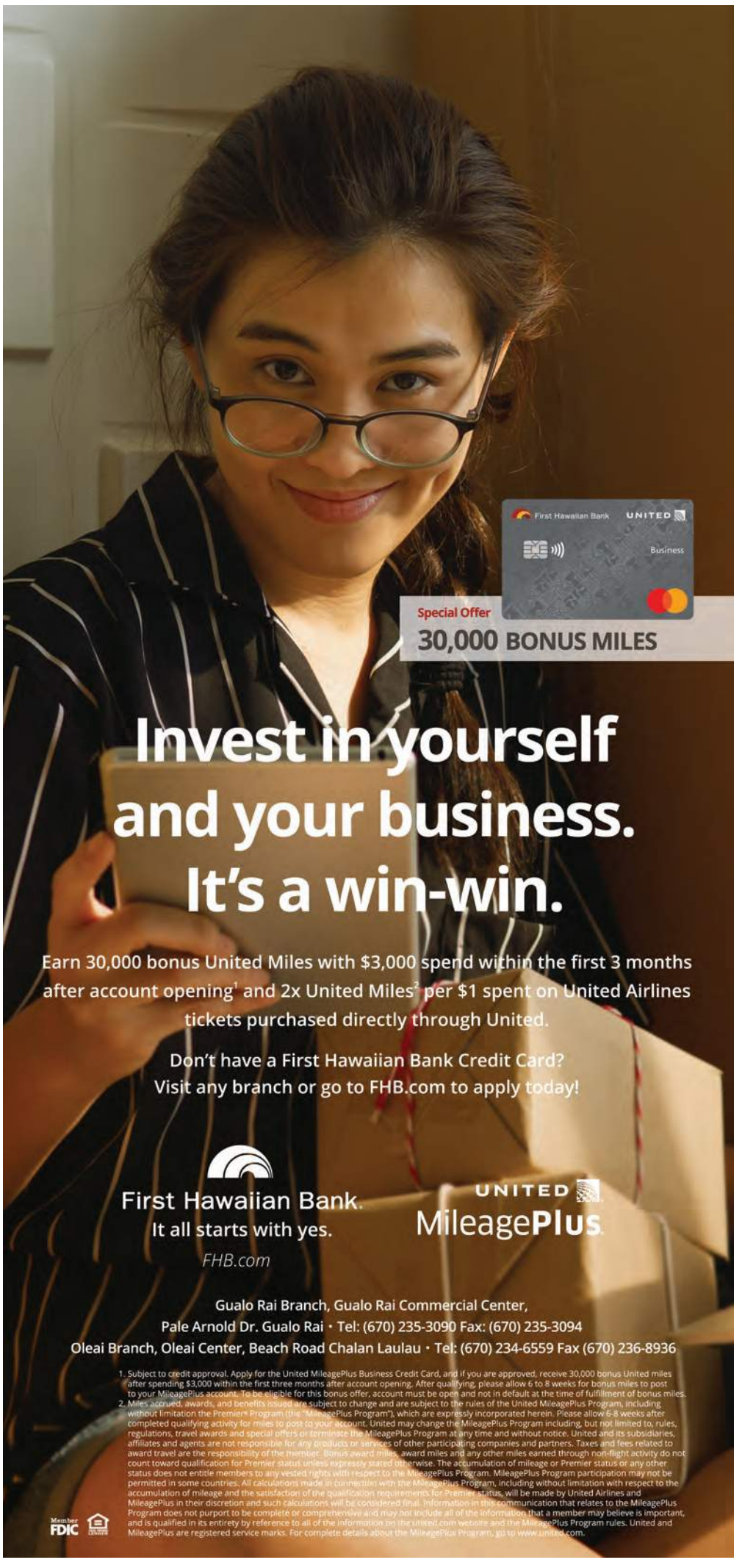
Torres

In the memorandum, Torres said he finds it necessary to take this measure to control the expenditure of ARPA funds "to ensure that the funds are used efficiently and effectively."

According to the memorandum, copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune*, the governor also requires that all requests for employment of individuals for ARPA-funded positions shall be pre-approved by him, or if designated by him, by the special assistant for administration.

Torres said ARPA is providing the CNMI significant

See TORRES on Page 4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Trans: 4-Speed Automatic w/OD, FWD
Mileage: 60,742
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Trans: 6-Speed Automatic w/OD, FWD
Mileage: 53,574
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2017 KIA SPORTAGE LX
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Trans: 6-Speed Automatic w/OD, FWD
Mileage: 60,953
NOW $15,999*

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Mileage: 64,042
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JGO

From Page 1

committee, saying that members still have a lot of follow-up questions for her.

There is no schedule yet when Dela Cruz is going to appear before the committee. It is also not clear yet if she will object to the request.

The committee, which is investigating the governor's expenditure of public funds and travels, approved yesterday the motion of Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) to request for Dela Cruz, through her counsel Viola Alepuyo, to appear before the committee at a time that suits the committee, Dela Cruz, and her counsel.

Manglona raised the motion after the committee members present at the meeting in the House chamber read the affidavit that Dela Cruz, through her counsel, submitted to the committee yesterday morning.

Manglona said that, based on the affidavit, there are still many questions that the members would like to get clarification on and for Dela Cruz to explain further.

After all six members present approved the motion, committee chair Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) announced that the committee will issue a letter for Dela Cruz, through her attorney, to appear before the committee at a time that is feasible for everyone's schedule.

Babauta said they read the affidavit in its entirety into the record for everyone's benefit. "And just as we have expected, and what I have personally known along, based on my 16 years' experience holding that position in that office, that Ms. Dela Cruz's duties are strictly administrative in nature," Babauta said.

She said they permitted Dela Cruz to submit an affidavit in good faith and gave her the opportunity to be as responsive as possible to the subpoena but, just as they have communicated many times to Torres' counsel, Ross Garber, Alepuyo, and Office of the Governor counsel Gilbert Birnbrich, written affidavits are no substitute for live testimony.

"We cannot ask follow up questions. The members of this body are unable to ask clarifying questions," she pointed out.

Babauta said the affidavit is unresponsive and unsatisfactory to the questions they have of Dela Cruz as it relates to her duties.

Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) said that the 10-page affidavit was something that they had expected all along—just a very expansive breakdown of all of Dela Cruz's duties and responsibilities and it does nothing but stall the hearing.

"I don't know if this is going to be the tactic of the governor or if this is their strategy to submit affidavits," he said. "And I'm ready to move forward. And I look forward to her [Dela Cruz] appearing before us with her legal counsel."

Rep. Richard T. Lizama (D-Saipan) expressed hope that Dela Cruz will not be used as a scapegoat. "I am just hoping that…she will not be used as a, 'Well, she saw it, reviewed it, and approved it,'" Lizama said.

With Dela Cruz present at the hearing, they could ask questions in good faith, he added.

At the start of the meeting, Babauta read Alepuyo's letter to her, where she described Dela Cruz as being caught in the middle of an "unfortunate situation."

Alepuyo reiterated in her letter that Dela Cruz "continues to unequivocally invoke her constitutional testimonial immunity and privilege, objects to the subpoena, and does not waive any constitutional rights she may now have or will have in the future."

If the JGO has any follow up questions, Alepuyo said Dela Cruz "welcomes a process to continue to protect her right while providing the committee the information it seeks.

After reading Alepuyo's letter, Babauta asked the six other members present to read into the record the affidavit, which responds to the committee's subpoena issued on Oct. 8, 2021.

As outlined in her affidavit, Dela Cruz was executive assistant to then-Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres from Jan. 12, 2015, until Dec. 29, 2015, then executive assistant to Torres from Dec. 29, 2015, up to the present.

Dela Cruz stated, among other things, that she was not aware that there is a requirement for Torres to submit a trip report after his travels.

Dela Cruz said at the Office of the Governor, she processed less than 20 monthly utility billings for Torres' Commonwealth Utilities Corp. account. She said all other monthly utility billings are processed by the Special Assistant to the Administration's account.

Dela Cruz said during the time she processed the governor's monthly utility billings, her procedure was upon receiving the billing, she would verify if all billing information is correct such as name, address, and account number. Dela Cruz said she then processed the memo payment according to the billing. She said she would then submit the memo payment with its attachment to Torres for his review, approval, and signature.

After all approvals, she said, she would then make copies of the memo payment along with all its attachments for their office files.

Dela Cruz said the office staff would then deliver the original memo payment and all its attachments to the Department of Finance for approval and processing, and also get the office copy stamped received by Finance.

2.7K

From Page 1

During a radio news briefing last Friday, CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña said that children ineligible to receive COVID-19 vaccines have been a concern in regards to the spread of COVID-19, and that COVID-19 vaccines being made available to children aged 5 to 11 would boost the CNMI's vaccination numbers.

As to where the first half of November timeline comes from, Muña explained that vaccine research on the age group will be first reviewed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, then by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, which is under the CDC, and, if the findings are approved by ACIP, ACIP will make a recommendation to the CDC. Then, CDC director Dr. Rochelle P. Walensky will make the ultimate decision whether or not to approve the use of COVID-19 vaccines in this age group.

The timeline of the entire process is projected to conclude in early November., said Muña. Anticipating the CDC approval, Muña first shared last Friday that CHCC was "already ordering supplies."

"We are already ordering the supplies just to prepare for that, so that when November hits we are ready to distribute vaccines to the children," said Muña.

In seeking clarity on what these "supplies" were, *Saipan Tribune* was told in an email Monday by Heather S. Pangelinan, who is the Maternal, Infant, Child, & Adolescent Health Programs administrator for CHCC—said that 2,700 pediatric doses of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine were pre-ordered, and that these vaccines come with "ancillary supply kits such as needles, syringes, and other [personal protective equipment] for clinical staff to safely administer the vaccines."

Pangelinan also spoke Monday on the possibility of rolling out vaccines in schools through already existing school-based clinics, saying that CHCC has been working closely with CNMI Public School System administration on the matter.

"We are in communication with PSS administration on coordinating school-based vaccination clinics to allow parents/caregivers the option of convenience for their children to be able to be vaccinated at school during school hours. We've done school-based COVID-19 vaccination clinics at all private schools and PSS middle and high schools in the CNMI, so this strategy would essentially be an expansion to the elementary schools that serve the 5–11-year-old populations," said Pangelinan.

"School-based vaccination clinics is an option that is part of the CNMI's overall strategy. In addition to school-based clinics, families can access COVID-19 vaccination through the current mass vaccination site at the [Pedro P. Tenorio] Multi-Purpose Center and the CHCC Immunization Clinic. We are also in the process of enrolling local pharmacies and additional private clinics to provide COVID-19 vaccinations," she added.

US

From Page 1

exempt from new rules that will require most travelers to the United States be vaccinated against COVID-19, the Biden administration announced.

The government said Monday it will require airlines to collect contact information on passengers regardless of whether they have been vaccinated to help with contact tracing, if that becomes necessary.

Beginning Nov. 8, foreign, non-immigrant adults traveling to the United States will need to be fully vaccinated, with only limited exceptions, and all travelers will need to be tested for the virus before boarding a plane to the U.S. There will be tightened restrictions for American and foreign citizens who are not fully vaccinated.

The new policy comes as the Biden administration moves away from restrictions that ban non-essential travel from several dozen countries—most of Europe, China, Brazil, South Africa, India and Iran—and instead focuses on classifying individuals by the risk they pose to others.

It also reflects the White House's embrace of vaccination requirements as a tool to push more Americans to get the shots by making it inconvenient to remain unvaccinated.

Under the policy, those who are vaccinated will need to show proof of a negative COVID-19 test within three days of travel, while the unvaccinated must present a test taken within one day of travel.

Children under 18 will not be required to be fully vaccinated because of delays in making them eligible for vaccines in many places. They will still need to take a COVID-19 test unless they are 2 or younger.

Others who will be exempt from the vaccination requirement include people who participated in COVID-19 clinical trials, who had severe allergic reactions to the vaccines, or are from a country where shots are not widely available.

That latter category will cover people from countries with vaccination rates below 10% of adults. They may be admitted to the U.S. with a government letter authorizing travel for a compelling reason and not just for tourism, a senior administration official said. The official estimated that there are about 50 such countries.

The U.S. will accept any vaccine approved for regular or emergency use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration or the World Health Organization. That includes Pfizer, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson, AstraZeneca and China's Sinopharm and Sinovac vaccines. Mixing-and-matching of approved shots will be permitted.

The Biden administration has been working with airlines, who will be required to enforce the new procedures. Airlines will be required to verify vaccine records and match them against identity information.

Quarantine officers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will spot-check passengers who arrive in the U.S. for compliance, according to an administration official. Airlines that don't enforce the requirements could be subject to penalties of up to nearly $35,000 per violation.

The new rules will replace restrictions that began in January 2020, when President Donald Trump banned most non-U.S. citizens coming from China. The Trump administration expanded that to cover Brazil, Iran, the United Kingdom, Ireland and most of continental Europe. President Joe Biden left those bans in place and expanded them to South Africa and India.

Biden came under pressure from European allies to drop the restrictions, particularly after many European countries eased limits on American visitors.

"The United States is open for business with all the promise and potential America has to offer," Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo said after Monday's announcement.

The main trade group for the U.S. airline industry praised the administration's decision.

MODERNA

From Page 1

least two months after their initial shot.

The CHCC news release states that individuals can obtain a booster shot just by walking into the COVID-19 mass vaccination site (i.e., Pedro P. Tenorio Multi- Purpose Center), through the CHCC Immunization Clinic, and requesting a booster dose of either Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, or Johnson & Johnson vaccines.

"All interested individuals, including patients on Tinian and Rota, can call the CHCC call center at (670) 682-SHOT (7468) for more information on the availability of a COVID-19 vaccine booster shot.

"Consent forms must be completed by patients at the time of vaccination for the booster shot. The consent forms will include a section in which the patient/vaccine recipient will self-attest to qualifying under any of the eligible categories and that they have already received their initial dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

"There are now booster recommendations for all three available COVID-19 vaccines. Eligible individuals may choose which vaccine they receive as a booster dose. Some people may have a preference for the vaccine type that they originally received, and others may prefer to get a different booster. CDC's recommendations now allow for this type of mix and match dosing for booster shots.

"Data show that all three of the COVID-19 vaccines approved or authorized in the United States continue to be highly effective in reducing risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death.

Vaccination remains the best way to protect yourself and reduce the spread of the virus, and help prevent new variants from emerging. Individuals who have questions should talk to their health care provider about their medical condition and whether getting a booster shot is appropriate for them," the CHCC news release stated. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

TORRES

From Page 3

aid in overcoming its weak economy and shortfall in government revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Last June, Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig presented details of how the CNMI government plans to spend over $512 million in ARPA funding.

With $175 million from ARPA and the $103.3 million from the general fund, the government will have its disposal a total of $278.38 million for government operations in the new fiscal year.

NMC-CREES granted $620K to conduct Food Systems research

The Northern Marianas College's Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services was recently awarded $620,000 as part of a $10 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to study simulations to identify and test drivers of resiliency in food supply chains for decreasing food waste and increasing food and nutrition security, healthful diets, and health among children.

NMC-CREES is involved in this grant with University of Hawaii Manoa and other institutions across the U.S.-affiliated Pacific region. This is the third competitive grant that the Children's Healthy Living Program has received substantial funding for.

The CNMI Children's Healthy Living Program, in collaboration with the Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, and As Matuis Role Models, or TASA, competed against 22 countries to receive the 2015-2017 World Health Organization's Health in All Policies award for community-led work, which sought to enhance the village environments that children live, learn, and play in.

NMC-CREES interim dean Patty Coleman is the CNMI lead investigator. Coleman was a recipient of the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture Excellence in Integrated Research, Extension, and Education Award for her role in the original Children's Healthy Living Program grant.

"Dangkulo na si yu'us maase yan olomwaay to our partners from the Public School System, CNMI Head Start, [Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.], CNMI [Women, Infant, Children Program], [Non-Communicable Diseases] Task Force, our pool of volunteers, and many others, for working in partnership for the health of our children and community," Coleman said. "The success of CHL is largely due to partnership and collaboration."

The CHL Food Systems grant is a multi-site study that aims to prevent chronic disease in households and communities across the U.S. Affiliated Pacific insular areas. These areas (Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, CNMI, and American Samoa) are a part of the Children's Healthy Living Program for Remote Underserved Minority Populations in the Pacific Region.

Objectives of the program are to develop and test a system dynamics stakeholder-driven transdisciplinary multilevel food and nutrition security resiliency model, provide graduate training to future leaders from the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Region in food and nutrition security model development, and to incorporate model key results and tools into extension and other community programs with online access to simulation tools on the CHL website to guide multilevel systems change.

NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero said this is a great achievement for the college. "We are glad that the college and its CREES program are still able to continue the great work they do in promoting and ensuring a healthy community," he said.

This $10-million investment is made under the National Institute of Food and Agriculture Sustainable Agricultural Systems program. It is part of USDA's financing of sustainable agricultural research projects aimed at improving a robust, resilient, climate-smart food and agricultural system.

In total, USDA will be funding more than $146 million in sustainable agricultural research. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

5.1-magnitude quake near Pagan

At 2:30am on Oct. 20 2021, a report of a 5.1-magnitude earthquake occurred at 111 miles northwest of Pagan, Northern Mariana Islands. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings, or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000.

DPHSS encourages Guam residents to get their booster shots

Since the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 booster shot became available to eligible residents on Sept. 30, more than 6,000 people have received a booster shot. The Department of Public Health and Social Services encourages eligible Guam residents to get vaccinated with the booster dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.

The COVID-19 village booster clinic, in partnership with the Mayors' Council of Guam continues throughout the months of October and November for adults ages 65 and older. COVID-19 booster shots are also available for eligible residents at the University of Guam Field House for the following:

- Anyone age 65+
- Anyone age 18+ with underlying medical conditions
- Anyone 18+ with an elevated risk of COVID-19 exposure and transmission due to their occupation (e.g. healthcare workers, law enforcement, fire, K-12 teachers and support staff, university faculty, daycare employees, food and agriculture workers, manufacturing workers, USPS workers, corrections workers, public transit workers, grocery store workers) or living settings. ***(PR)***

Guam PTAC offers free webinar

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering a free live webinar on Thursday, Oct. 28, from 10am to 11:30am, on the SBA Mentor-Protege Program. This program is modeled after the 8(a) Mentor-Protégé Program. The Guam PTAC will update you on the eligibility requirements and how to apply.

The webinars will be conducted via Zoom. The link to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar. To register visit http://www.guamptac.com/news-and-events.php. ***(PR)***

CHCC transitioning to managing Medical Referral

Eight years since the Medical Referral Program was placed under the Office of the Governor, the program is going back to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., according to CHCC chief executive officer Esther L. Muña.

Speaking during a radio news briefing last Friday, Muña said that CHCC is now transitioning to managing the program, including an employee orientation for Medical Referral Services Office staff as they "become part of the CHCC family."

CHCC has also been reviewing the accounts of those availing of the MRSO's services to "ensure that services can continue," she added.

In May 2013, then-governor Eloy S. Inos issued an executive order ordering CHCC to transfer management of the program to the Office of the Governor, which then assumed responsibility for the administration and operation of the office. This year, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres approved a provision in the budget bill for fiscal year 2022 that transferred the administration of the program back to CHCC.

Muña said that CHCC is looking to reform some MRSO practices, policies, and procedures to see "what really works best for the CNMI" and will be taking into "hard consideration" recommendations that were given by the CNMI Legislature during recent hearings on the program.

"We want to make sure that any [reformed] policies and procedures...will address [the CNMI's needs] and see what best works for our people here, as services may be needed beyond CHCC and what's available here in the CNMI," said Muña. ***(Joshua Santos)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

(RE-ANNOUNCEMENT)

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22 – 015

Opening Date: 10/21/2021
Closing Date: 11/03/2021

POSITION TITLE:	Human Resources Technician
DEPARTMENT:	COA/Human Resources
LOCATION:	Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	$20,826.00 - $28,115.00 per annum, Non-Exempt
CONTRACT:	Not Contracted
POSITION(S):	One (1)

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") is seeking for a qualified Human Resources Technician. Under the direct supervision of the Human Resources Manager or his/her designee the responsibilities will be as follows:

Duties:

- Provides administrative and technical support tasks for daily Human Resource operational functions; provides administrative assistance with benefits, training, payroll and recruiting activities, information tracking and documentation.
- Receives processes and verifies forms and completion of required information; enters and maintains Human Resource information systems data, files and records; maintains confidential personnel files and records.
- Assists employees and the public by providing information related to HR processes and procedures; retrieves and reviews data and resources to provide response to inquiries; or, refer inquiries or requests to appropriate resource.
- Performs research and verifies information; performs calculations; processes timekeeping information; compiles and maintains data for audit purposes. ☒ May process job vacancy announcements and assist in employment interview.
- Prepares forms and reports; drafts correspondence and templates; assists with gathering, documenting and maintaining information for programs, projects, training, recruitment, benefits or other areas. ☒ Assists management with special projects, information tracking and reporting.
- Monitors supply needs and prepare requests for replacement or acquisition; monitors equipment maintenance requirements and schedules services as required. ☒ Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Successful candidates for the position must have the following:

Education:
High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS and 2 years of human resource or legal office experience.; or, an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential duties of the job such as those listed above. **Knowledge of:** Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Human Resource principles and practices; Program administration principles; Customer service principles; Mathematical concepts; Research methods; Database and records management principles; Modern office technology. **Skill In:** Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Administering and monitoring programs, policies and processes; Coordinating the implementation of human resource services; Researching and analyzing program-related data and resource information; Providing customer service; Interpreting policies and providing relevant information and guidance; Prioritizing work in order to meet time-sensitive program deadlines; Tracking and auditing data, forms, records and documentation; Preparing reports, correspondence, and program support materials; Updating and maintaining information systems and confidential records; Coordinating and assisting with projects; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing:
o Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.
Physical Demands:
o Occasional lifting of objects, Subject to standing, walking, sitting, bending, reaching, kneeling, pushing and pulling.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

CLAIMS EXAMINER

Responsibilities: Assures needed coverage for file set-up is requested and secured. is in effect and documented in GENiiSYS,that the company's liability is properly determined. Otherwise assures that all claims are processed and logged in the common folder according to company procedures and standards. Assures visitors are handled in a professional mannor and inquiry is handled to satisfaction. Internal/External telephone calls are answered and directed to the appropriate staff member. Maintains verifies the claims are assigned appropriately and workload distribution in a equitable manner. Maintains courrier distribution and receipt. Material File set-up is distributed to the adjusters in a timely manner per Best Practice contact guidelines. Subrogation and Salvage checks are properly recorded in GENiiSYS. Maintain Filing and assures proper record destruction is done in a timely manner. Maintain Supplies and other information as required. Provide administrative services to claim staff and assist other management in meeting and travel assistance. Coordinate the repair or maintenance of office equipment. Assist in DMV record needs, Dept of Labor information and filings. Coordinate Documentation storage/retrieval.

We are looking for:

- Self-motivated team players with excellent communication and time managements skills;
- At least (4) years working experience in a non-life insurance company preferably in claims;
- Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal,
- Ability to interpret, understand and apply policy wordings or
- Demonstrate a basic standard of technical claims competence,
- Knowledge of the legal, regulatory and litigation requirements and procedures,
- Computer literate on Microsoft Office and Oracle based system program
- Customer service and negotiation skills
- Position is available in Saipan, CNMI only.

If interested, please drop off your application and/or resume at our Human Resources Department Office located at the Second Floor JP Center, Saipan or fax it to (670) 234-1845 or e-mail it to hr@centuryinsurancegroup.net.

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WE ARE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Exploring Micronesian history through podcasts

» Online event looks at role of podcasts in spreading knowledge, broadening discourse

TAMUNING, Guam—*Memoirs Pasifika*, a Guam-based podcast exploring events, movements, and people in modern Micronesian history, will host a virtual roundtable and audience question-and-answer to discuss the role of podcasts in sharing Micronesian history with local and global audiences.

The online event, titled "Modern Micronesian History Through Podcast: A Virtual Roundtable + Q&A," is free and open to the public. It will take place on Thursday, Oct. 28, from 7:30pm to 9pm (Chamorro Standard Time). Register to attend at http://tinyurl.com/MemoirsPasifika.

The roundtable discussion will be moderated by Manuel Lujan Cruz, an Instructor of Communication & Media at the University of Guam. Cruz is also a UN Indigenous Fellow and former host of *Fanachu! Podcast.*

The panelists are Dr. Michael Lujan Bevacqua (curator, Guam Museum; host, *Fanachu! Podcast*), Dr. Vivian Dames (associate professor of Social Work/Women & Gender Studies, UOG; former host, KPRG's *Beyond the Fence*), and Tony Azios (producer, *Memoirs Pasifika* podcast; documentary filmmaker, and journalist).

Memoirs Pasifika is a documentary podcast exploring events, movements, and people in modern Micronesian history. Each episode covers a different topic and is largely told through interviews with Pacific Islanders who witnessed or participated in the events in question.

ON THE NET
www.memoirspasifika.com

Recent episodes explore fascinating events in the region's history. For example, the third episode—anchored by Dr. Evyn Lê Espiritu Gandhi—discusses Operation New Life, when Guam served as the primary processing center for 112,000 Vietnamese refugees after the Fall of Saigon in April 1975. The fourth episode, anchored by former Saipan representative LJ Castro, covers several key moments and debates from the Northern Mariana Islands' self-determination process of the '60s and '70s, including the Marianas Political Status Commission's negotiations with the United States government to end the CNMI's status as a U.S.-administered Trust Territory through the Covenant Agreement. It features interviews with several framers of the Covenant, including Vicente Naputi Santos, Manuel Atalig Sablan, and Pedro Agulto Tenorio.

A sixth episode, about the revival of traditional seafaring practices in the Marianas with the help of Carolinian navigators, will be released this week.

The podcast is available for download and streaming across multiple sites, including Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon/Audible, SoundCloud, Libsyn, and YouTube. The podcast's website (www.memoirspasifika.com) gives fans access to a supplementary archival media relating to each episode's topic and interviewees, including photos, music, videos, and newspaper clippings. ***(PR)***

Marianas Visitors Authority Community Projects specialist Jack Aranda, far left, presents about the tourism office to 10th graders at Marianas High School in Susupe, Saipan, on Oct. 22, 2021. MTEC

MTEC offers support for school MY WAVE clubs

The Marianas Tourism Education Council and Marianas Visitors Authority continue their rounds at local high schools to educate students about the Marianas tourism and to offer support for schools' Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically clubs, more popularly known as MY WAVE clubs.

MTEC and the MVA presented "Safe Travel & Marianas Tourism" last Friday (Oct. 22) to 10th graders at Marianas High School, including tips on how students can support tourism. So far this month, MTEC and the MVA have visited Dr. Rita Inos Jr./Sr. High School, Tinian Jr./Sr. High School, Kagman High, and MHS.

MTEC encourages all schools to form MY WAVE clubs and conduct activities to engage their members with tourism, such as conducting beach cleanups, offering cultural performances for visitors, exploring careers in the travel industry, or others. To support MY WAVE clubs, MTEC offers adviser incentives for clubs that meet certain criteria and offers other club support upon request. In addition, MTEC will offer two high school scholarships this year to graduating seniors who have been a member of a MY WAVE Club for at least one year during high school and who meet other criteria.

"We've all seen the benefits of educating our youth about the importance of the islands' tourism industry," said MTEC acting chair Vicky Benavente. "We've also been witness to what happens when a pandemic wreaks havoc on the travelling public. By educating our students, I believe that they will become more aware and involved in our islands' economic growth and development, as they grow into adults."

An orientation meeting for all MY WAVE Club advisers will be held in November.

MTEC presents annually to public schools and is targeting 10th grade in school year 2021-2022. Other MTEC board members are Priscilla M. Iakopo (MVA), Martin Duenas (MVA), Galvin Guerrero (Northern Marianas College), Larry Lee, Catherine Perry (Integrity Communications), Naomi Nishimura (CNMI Public School System), Gordon Marciano (Pacific Development Inc.), and Glenn Policare (Kanoa Resort). Dr. Yunzi Zhang of the NMC School of Business also supports the board.

Schools interested in starting a MY WAVE Club may contact MVA Community Projects specialist Jack Aranda at jaranda@mymarianas.com or 664-3200. ***(MTEC)***

Hyatt Regency Saipan is latest ProaPerks partner

Hyatt Regency Saipan is the latest company to sign on as a Northern Marianas College ProaPerks Partner, joining many other businesses and organizations that provide exclusive discounts and benefits for NMC students, employees, and alumni.

All card-carrying members of the NMC ProaPerks program can now receive a 10% discount at Hyatt Regency Saipan's food and beverage outlets (discount cannot be combined with other discounts or discounted pricing.)

Hyatt Regency Hotel joins a growing list of ProaPerks partners. NMC is in the introductory phase of rolling out the ProaPerks to alumni, students, and employees. For more information, visit marianas.edu/proaperks.

Companies and other interested organizations who would like to become part of the ProaPerks program and take advantage of the buying power of thousands of individuals that include Northern Marianas College alumni, students, and employees, can find more information by emailing proaperks@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

Hyatt Regency Saipan is now a proud NMC ProaPerks partner. More information about their special promotion for ProaPerks card holders can be found at marianas.edu/proaperks. NMC

NMC Nursing Program info session tomorrow

Community members who want to pursue a career in nursing are invited to attend Northern Marianas College's free info session on Thursday, Oct. 28, 2021, at NMC's Olympio T. Borja Library in Building O. The info session will be held from 5:30pm. to 6:30pm.

In addition to the nursing program, college personnel will discuss the admissions process and the available financial aid for the spring 2022 semester.

After completion of the degree program, students can pursue careers such as:

- Informatics Nurse
- Child health nurse
- Home health nurse
- Military nurse
- Medical-surgical nurse
- Psychiatric mental health nurse
- School nurse
- Administrative nurse
- Women's health nurse
- Community health nurse
- Flight nurse

Participants of the info session will qualify to have their application fee and their placement test fees waived for NMC's upcoming spring 2022 semester, a savings of about $75. As part of NMC's COVID-19 safety protocols, participants are asked to wear masks or face coverings when on campus.

The first day of classes will be on Jan. 18, 2022. Interested applicants are encouraged to apply now to register for courses and for financial aid. Currently, up to $3,247 is available in federal financial aid to qualified students.

For more information about registering for classes for the upcoming spring 2022 semester or to apply for admission, contact the NMC Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6768/6769/6771 or visit www.marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

Kilili thanks Head Start; Build Back Better Act could expand access

WASHINGTON, D.C.— In celebration of Head Start Awareness Month, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan thanked everyone responsible for the program in the Marianas for their work during the pandemic. The Northern Marianas Public School System operates 10 Head Start and Early Head Start centers on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, serving 400 children ages 4 and 5 and 70 infants and toddlers from birth to age 3. The centers have remained open this year, although enrollment has been reduced to maintain health safety.

"Our youngest learners in the Marianas and their families have benefited from high-quality education and care services for almost 40 years," said Sablan. "We are especially appreciative of how, even amid the pandemic, our Head Start and Early Head Start programs have continued to offer these services safely."

Sablan

Sablan is chairman of the House Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education, which has jurisdiction over the Head Start program nationwide. Earlier this year, the Marianas Head Start Program received $403,000 from the CARES Act to fund distance learning technology and summer programs to make up for lost learning during the pandemic. Another $542,000 was allotted to Marianas Head Start from the American Rescue Plan this year for personal protective equipment, staff hiring, and other adjustments to keep the program running safely.

Sablan said he is looking forward to expanding pre-kindergarten education in the Marianas with passage of the Build Back Better Act, now being drafted in Congress.

"Children who have the opportunity to be in Head Start do better throughout their school years, which is why we want to make pre-K available to everyone, regardless of family economics, "Sablan said. "As chairman of the subcommittee responsible for early childhood education, I have made universal pre-K a priority in the Build Back Better negotiations."

Marianas Head Start recognized for excellence

"We simply cannot sing the praises of the Marianas Head Start and Early Head Start program too loudly or too often," said National Head Start Association executive director Yasmina Vinci. "The Marianas' is the only program in the Outer Pacific to be awarded the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership Grant; and the program operates for eight hours a day, five days a week for the full calendar year.

"The true heroes, of course, are the Marianas Head Start and Early Head Start workforce, who are doing everything in their power to provide high quality early learning opportunities and to create thriving and healthy communities across the CNMI. Their recent work to encourage mindfulness and support the mental health of staff and teachers during trying times has been an inspiration to Head Start programs nationwide," she added.

Head Start was launched in 1965 by President Lyndon B. Johnson so that every child, regardless of their family economic circumstances, could receive comprehensive health, nutrition, and education services and have the opportunity to reach their full potential. In the Marianas, the Head Start program has served more than 17,000 children and their families. ***(PR)***

NMC

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Calvo's Insurance is an official 2021 "Toys for Tots" partner this holiday season. Community members who would like to donate toys to the "Toys for Tots" program can drop off their donation at Calvo's Insurance. The "Toys for Tots" program is a charitable initiative hosted by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve that provides toys to disadvantaged children during the Christmas holiday season. The program is spearheaded by the Associated Students of Northern Marianas College and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce. Businesses who would like to participate in this program and host a toy collection box can email saipantoys4tots@gmail.com.

Name: Juan I. Quitugua
Address: P.O. Box 5736 SVRB
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: 483-5411

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Petitioner for the Change of Name of: **A.J.M.** **Z.K.N.M.** A Minor Child By: **Juan I. Quitugua** Petitioner

FCD CN CIVIL ACTION NO. 21-0428

NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on **February 28, 2022**, at **9:00 a.m.** in **Courtroom 217A**, before Honorable Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this **21st** day of **October, 2021**.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP22-CHCC/CGC-CCP-004

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 5, 2021 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"OFFICE LEASE - ROTA"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Taniguchi Ruth Makio Architects

is accepting applications for the following position:

CADD (REVIT) OPERATOR

Experience in Revit, CADD.

Submit applications and resumes in person or via email
Suite 204 M2M Bldg. Garapan, Saipan
email: mmakio@traguam.com
Attn: Michael Makio
jpangelinan@traguam.com
Attn: Jaime Pangelinan

NMTI NORTHERN MARIANAS TECHNICAL INSTITUTE
P.O. Box 504880 Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No.: (670) 235-6684

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

October 28, 2021, 2:00 p.m.
NMTI Facility, Lower Base, Saipan

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Adoption of Agenda
III. Public Comments
IV. Adoption of Minutes – September 29, 2021
V. Unfinished Business
  a. Policy Adoption for Schedule of Fees
  b. Policy Adoption for NMTI FTE Availing of Free Courses
  c. Policy Adoption for Trustees Electronic Signatures
  d. Amendments for Policy 1004 – Nomination Committee to Fill Vacancy Presentation
  e. CEO Appraisal Forms from Trustees
  f. Status Update of Mr. Victorino Cepeda's inquiry with Trustees on existing FHB Trades account
  g. Status Update on Tinian Rep. and Saipan Vacancies
VI. Treasurer's Report
VII. CEO's Report
  a. EDA Construction Project Updates
  b. Presentation to Yutu Inter Agency Coordination
  c. Automotive I Culinary Scholarship Project
  d. Culinary Arts Program Accreditation Process
  e. Board Resolutions for
VIII. New Business
  a. NMTech Mission I Vision
  b. NMTech Logos I Letterhead

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
RFP NO.: DPW22-RFP-001

SUBMISSION DATE: November 16, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"ECONOMIC RESILIENCY CENTER, SAIPAN"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The RFP Package and Scope of Work is available on or after **October 13, 2021** at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center.

There will be a **Pre-Proposal Conference** for this project on **October 29, 2021**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the **Infrastructure and Recovery Program Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Horiguchi Building, Saipan**. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **November 08, 2021** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ANTHONY A. CAMACHO
Acting Secretary, DPW

/S/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG
Secretary of Finance

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
Acting Director, Division of Procurement Services

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp I Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net
Ph: (670) 234-6866/9447/7670

Notice to the General Public

Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program

(October 25, 2021)

Pursuant to §100-90-410 of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's (NMHC) Section 8 Administrative Plan for Rental Assistance Programs, this is to inform the general public that the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP) waiting list has reached its maximum number of applicants on October 22, 2021. Therefore, the HCVP waiting list is closed effective October 25, 2021. Pre-applications will **NOT** be accepted at the NMHC Main Office on Saipan nor the Field Offices on Tinian and Rota.

NMHC Housing Specialists & Field Office Representatives will review the pre-applications submitted on or before October 22, 2021 and formally contact applicants to schedule eligibility appointments. For more information, please contact NMHC at telephone numbers 234-6866 or 234-9446 (Saipan), 433-9213 (Tinian), or 532-9410 (Rota).

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXI, Issue No. 213

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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Bannon's subpoena defiance is illegal, yet the 'law and order' party defends it

For anyone who still needs it, most Republican House members last week provided more evidence that the GOP—once the "law-and-order" party—is now the party that coddles criminals. By overwhelmingly voting against holding Donald Trump crony Steve Bannon in criminal contempt for his refusal to testify in the investigation into the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol, this shameful roster (including all six of Missouri's GOP House members) is once again running interference for a lawless ex-president who tried to overthrow a valid election.

This certainly isn't the first time congressional Republicans have sided with criminality lately. Not once but twice, most of them voted against holding Trump accountable for clearly impeachable acts (extorting a foreign ally for political support, and inciting the Capitol riot). They defended or silently tolerated Trump's outrageous string of self-serving, swampy pardons for criminally charged or convicted supporters like Michael Flynn, Roger Stone, and Bannon himself. They're currently defending wealthy tax cheats by blocking Democratic efforts to strengthen Internal Revenue Service collection powers.

With a law-and-order party like this, who needs crooks?

The crime that Bannon committed to merit Thursday's House vote to hold him in contempt is, like so much of the lawbreaking the GOP tries to ignore these days, pretty clear-cut: When Congress issues a subpoena, the subject of that subpoena is legally required to provide the information being sought—in this case, testimony about Bannon's conversations with Trump before the Jan. 6 attack. Bannon's excuse for refusing is that Trump is claiming executive privilege, which legal scholars say is nonsense because Trump is no longer president.

The strategy for protecting Bannon included a pathetic diversionary tactic by Republican Rep. Rodney Davis of Illinois, who prattled on, flush with fake outrage, about "serious security vulnerabilities that have not been addressed by this House in 11 months after Jan. 6." As if security lapses excuse what Trump and his violent minions did that day. Rep. Adam Kinzinger of Illinois, one of just nine Republicans who voted to hold Bannon accountable for thumbing his nose at a legally issued congressional subpoena, saw right through Davis' act, saying: "Don't let my side use the security structure as the straw man."

Republicans also argued Bannon should be out of the reach of the investigation because he is just a private citizen. Bannon's own argument that he's shielded by Trump's (nonexistent) executive privilege would seem to suggest otherwise.

This really isn't that complicated: A congressional probe to establish exactly who did what in advance of a mob attack on the seat of America's government is not only justified but required. Congress has the legal authority to subpoena relevant witnesses for that probe. Those who defy such subpoenas are breaking the law.

And the party that tries to shield those lawbreakers should stop pretending it cherishes law and order.

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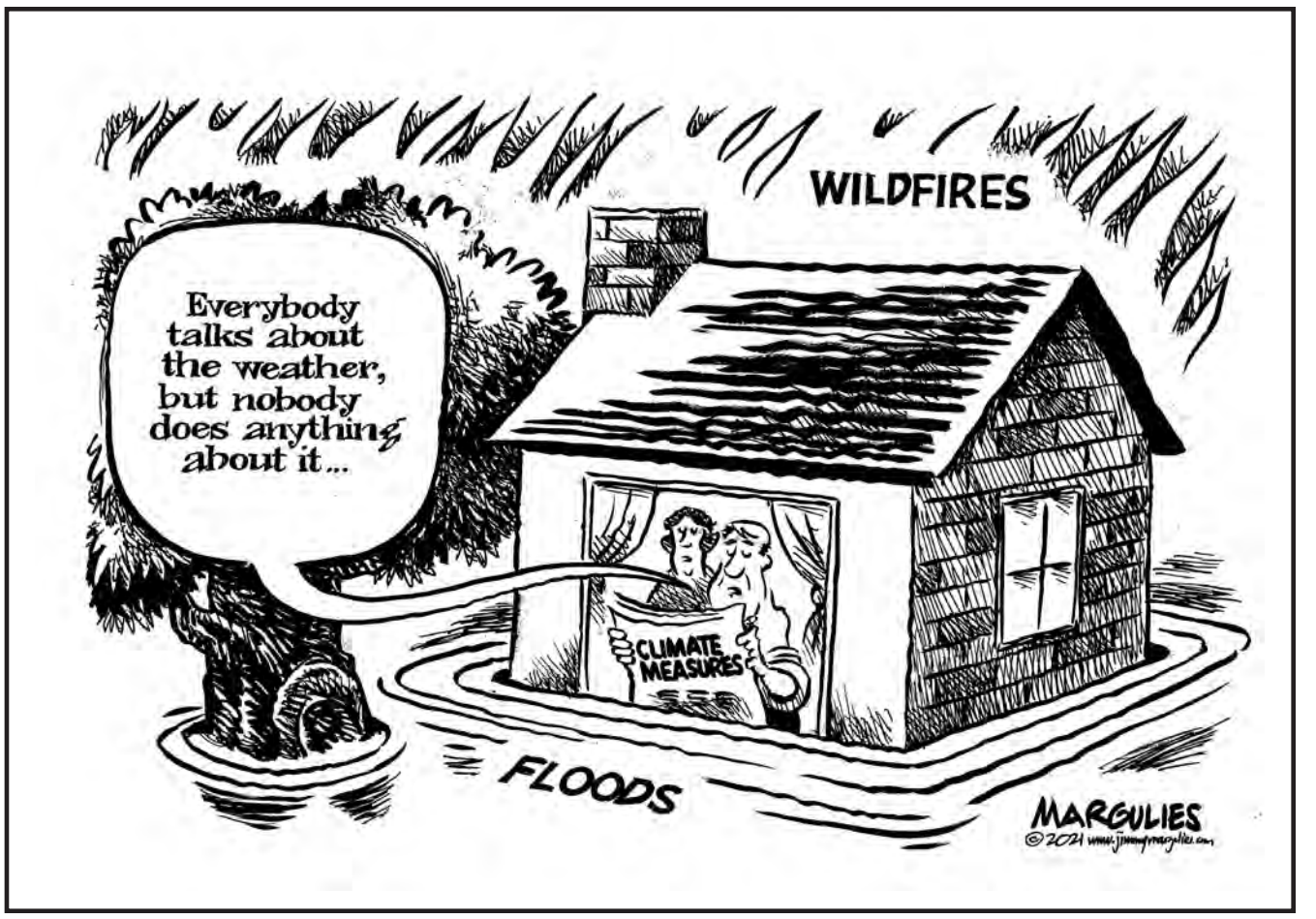


Another pandemic Halloween, more unfounded fears about the safety of kids from COVID

By CYNTHIA M. ALLEN
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Cynthia M. Allen is a columnist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. *Readers may send her email at cmallen@star-telegram.com.*

Last Halloween, I gathered up a lawn chair and an enormous bowl of candy and sat on my front steps, not quite sure what to expect.

Weeks earlier, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had categorized trick-or-treating as a "high-risk activity," and public health authorities asked parents to keep their kids at home for their own health and safety.

Months into the worst pandemic in decades, we knew a few things about what activities constituted risky behavior. (Hint: not trick-or-treating.)

There were already substantial data to confirm that the virus didn't spread efficiently outdoors, even without masks, though they were still widely used at the time.

The evidence that the virus didn't spread via surfaces wasn't really a concern was also quite compelling. And by that time, studies had also shown that the virus was orders of magnitude less dangerous to children than to seniors or vulnerable adults—less worrisome even than the flu.

But health authorities were still pushing policies that were incongruent with the latest "science."

As we approach another pandemic Halloween, nothing much has changed.

We still have public-health authorities making recommendations backed by the thinnest of data. And, as has been the approach with masking, the recommendations come without the slightest indication that the experts have considered the overall well-being of children beyond whether they contract a disease for which they are at little risk.

Case in point: the Food and Drug Administration is on the cusp of approving for emergency use the available COVID-19 vaccines for 5-11 year-olds—an age group for whom COVID is far from an emergency.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 158 children between 5-11 have succumbed to the virus since the pandemic began. In almost all of those cases the children had significant underlying health problems, such as cancer.

That's 158 out of almost 29 million in the U.S.

While pediatric cases have increased as a share of positive tests in recent months, the virus' expression in children is usually mild and children are far more likely to be asymptomatic. Dr. Anthony Fauci recently said about 50% of the infections in children are such.

Even The New York Times has conceded that the risks for unvaccinated children look similar to the risks for vaccinated adults—those in their 50s, 40s and even their 30s.

And given what we are coming to understand about the durability of natural immunity, this should be a source of comfort for everyone, parents especially.

Yet when the vaccine is approved for children, the Biden administration says it will ship a double pediatric dose for each child in that age cohort.

For some parents, vaccinating their children will mean an end to living in fear; the pandemic will finally be over, (even if vaccinated kids will be required to wear masks for the foreseeable future). If your kid has a serious underlying illness, that is understandable.

But others are less comfortable with a public-health establishment that advocates so strongly for vaccinating a population in which the healthy are more threatened by the possible side effects of a shot than by the disease it is intended to prevent.

Such side effects, which include myocarditis most commonly in teenage boys, are the source of much debate, ongoing research and understandable concern.

In response, a growing number of countries have either paused vaccination or reduced vaccine dosage for 12-17 year-olds, noting that the rare but serious incidence of heart-related complications warrant further study and consideration.

Not the U.S., which has instead pursued vaccination for even smaller children with unusual enthusiasm.

This has been done under the guise of protecting children from a virus that is not a substantial danger to them, giving parents reason to wonder if the underlying reason has always been to protect adults.

Everyone wants this pandemic to end. For some parents, vaccinating their kids is the way to do it.

But for others, the existing encouraging data about COVID and kids and the troubling lack of long-term data about vaccines and kids means the pandemic is effectively already over.

The fear of COVID—at least where kids are concerned—should be, too.

Last year, my candy bowl was empty by 8 p.m. I expect it will be this year, as well.

Next year, will we finally drive a stake into the heart of this madness that is robbing our kids of the childhood they deserve?

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Economists call for redirection of economy to put 'Health For All' at center in run-up to G20

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought into focus the stark reality of the large and growing inequities across the globe in access to health care and health products: for every 100 people in high-income countries, 133 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered, while in low-income countries, only four doses per 100 people have been administered.

Yet, to date, the world continues to follow the same economic paradigm that doesn't change the underlying finance structure and applies outdated thinking on economic development, which stands in the way of "Health For All." As the G20 Summit approaches in Rome on Oct. 29-31, where, first, health and finance ministers, and then heads of state and government, come together, there is a window of opportunity for a radical redirection from health for the economy to the economy for health for all. The critical challenge is both to increase the magnitude of the finance available for health and to govern it in a more directed and effective manner.

The World Health Organization's Council on the Economics of Health For All calls now, more than ever, for clear, ambitious goals to mobilize and focus investments toward health, considering financing for health as a long-term investment and not a short-term cost. The council's new brief on Financing Health for All prioritizes two key dimensions: more finance and better finance and lays out the way forward through three pathways to action:

Creating fiscal space by easing artificial constraints imposed by outdated economic assumptions and reversing the harmful effects of reforms that lead to big health cuts, allowing spending and investments toward Health For All to increase significantly;

Directing investments to ensure Health for All becomes the central purpose of economic activities, and increase public leadership and dynamic state capabilities to create a conducive regulatory, tax, industrial policy and investment environment; and

Governing public and private finance by regulating the functioning and financing of private health markets through measures that crowd in and direct private finance toward improving health outcomes globally and equitably.

The council believes that a new paradigm must be pursued that avoids macroeconomic policies and assumptions that move us away from Health For All. This means designing policies to reach health for all now and in the long-term and realigning finance from all sectors and sources through conditionalities that fuel symbiotic gains in the public interest. Not only more financing of the health sector, but better-quality finance is crucial to deliver Health For All, which must be equitable and ensure a sustainable impact on peoples' lives.

The challenge is to change mindsets within countries that impose internal constraints on spending and to transform externally-imposed conditionalities that hinder spending on what matters for health and promote Health For All. Changing the rules of the game is a fundamental priority of any strategy to deliver Health For All, and policymakers have the ability to rethink finance now.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that the financing of health systems needs to change radically to protect and promote the health of all people," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director-general of WHO. "The latest report by the Council on the Economics of Health For All makes a clear and compelling argument for the need for sustained financing to be directed to achieving health for all people, and for investments to be understood as long-term gains for national and global development."

"While health systems are under-resourced, more finance is not the only solution. The work of the council stresses the need to reform and redirect finance in radical ways so that the objective is Health For All is designed into the financial structures, the conditionalities and the partnerships between business and the state," said Council chair Professor Mariana Mazzucato.

By way of background, the WHO Council on the Economics of Health For All was established in November 2020 by WHO director-general Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. The council's core mission is to rethink how value in health and well-being is measured, produced, and distributed across the economy. It will recommend a new way to shape the economy with the objective of building healthy societies that are just, inclusive, equitable, and sustainable. Made up of 10 of the world's most eminent economists and health experts, the council works on four areas on how to rethink measurement of economic development, financing, capacity, and innovation with the aim of achieving Health for All. Briefs in each of these areas, and a comprehensive final report to be produced in 2023, will be used to build momentum amongst finance ministers, heads of state/government, as well as other decision makers such as other financial authorities and international development authorities, toward changing the structure of economic activity in favor of Health For All.

The members of the Council are Mazzucato, Professor Senait Fisseha, Professor Jayati Ghosh, Vanessa Huang, Professor Stephanie Kelton, Professor Ilona Kickbusch, Zelia Maria Profeta da Luz, Kate Raworth, Dr Vera Songwe and Dame Marilyn Waring. (WHO Council on the Economics of Health For All)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Holiday suicide is a myth

As I was doing some research on suicides in preparation for the upcoming holiday season, I learned that the risk of suicide does not increase during the holiday season. I learned that holiday suicide is a myth!

The risk of suicide does not increase during the holiday season.

One of the problems with the holiday suicide myth is that the real cause of potential suicides might be overlooked. And just because suicide rates are lower during the holiday months does not mean people are not acting on suicidal thoughts at all.

The risk of suicide is often one of symptoms that can accompany anxiety, depression, or other mental illness. So if you are experiencing thoughts of suicide, reach out for help. And, if you observe a person struggling with possible thoughts of suicide, reach out and don't blame it on the holiday season.

Jeanne Rayphand
Legal counsel, Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc.

UN-acceptable!

We are fighting a worldwide pandemic amid lies and misinformation. The United Nations has done little if anything to help the situation as millions of citizens around the globe try to decide whether or not to get vaccinated and wear a mask in crowded areas (sports, supermarkets, nightclubs, etc.). The pandemic has taken its toll on the labor market, transportation, entertainment and shipping. I suggest a sit-down with leaders of nations both large and small as soon as possible to separate truth from lies and thus come to an agreement to restore some degree of normalcy. Currently, it is what it is, namely UN-acceptable! We need worldwide leadership to rescue our global ship of state. We can do it!

Herb Stark
Mooresville, NC

COVID vaccine mandates test the limits of religious exemptions

By CHRISTINA MONIODIS
The Baltimore Sun

Christina Moniodis (christinamoniodis@protonmail.com) is an attorney and business executive.

In extending a temporary restraining order on mandating COVID-19 vaccines for New York health care workers who raised religious exemptions, a judge made clear that the court did not determine that the health care workers qualify for a religious exemption. Rather, the court found, the workers have a federally protected right to seek such an exemption.

Alas, we are early in the journey of vaccine-mandate litigation. But as the courts splinter over various vaccine mandate issues, religious exemptions may be more than a legal development. Their dynamics are part of a broader, albeit complex, pandemic-era religious awakening.

Isolation can inspire a sense of spirituality, which is the very reason many highly religious people seek hermitages. Naturally then, an extended quarantine, especially one with the risk of death looming, could foster spirituality. However, surges in suicide, mental health crises and obesity during the pandemic suggest the spiritual effect was largely negative. In fact, 2020 Gallup data show that U.S. membership in houses of worship fell below the majority for the first time. This trend will likely continue as 66% of U.S. adults born before 1946 belong to a church, compared with 36% of millennials.

Nonetheless, COVID did manage to spur passionate religious-related discussion. As an example, can communion be a vector for disease or is it incorruptible? Can large gatherings in mosques, churches or temples cause community spread, or is it safe, holy ground? Religious institutions themselves took varying stances on these questions, but regardless of stance, theological issues once thought confined to antiquity made their way into 2020 public thought.

The COVID vaccine mandate is the latest conjuring of religion from its borderline extinct mainstream existence. With few exemptions from the vaccine mandate available, which are largely limited to medical and religious grounds (and sometimes limited to medical only), religious beliefs have been thrust to the forefront.

Religious exemptions are not well defined, in contrast to medical exemptions—which are clear as to what falls within their very restrictive scope. Religious exemption ambiguity is understandable, given that religious faiths themselves vary widely and ascertaining a sincerely held belief is tricky business. The religious exemption has also been a hot topic of debate due to debacles such as New York first including a religious exemption for health care workers and then eliminating it eight days later, raising concerns of religious gerrymandering.

While some faiths are against medical intervention altogether, major faiths are not. The religious issue being litigated is the COVID vaccines' connection to cell lines from fetuses aborted decades ago (however remote). The distinction is this: being an advocate of medical intervention generally, but being against the involvement of religiously objectionable means.

This particular religious awakening is unusual in that it is confronted by individuals, rather than religious institutions themselves. Most places of worship and the leadership within are neither requesting exemptions as employers, nor providing support to individuals for exemptions. This is a battle that individuals are fighting alone or with their unions. This is a large undertaking for a society that is far from being high on theology, but is rather one of defection from houses of worship.

As religious individuals go-it-alone, the religious exemption debate will refocus attention on the realm of deeply held, transcendent beliefs beyond our everyday routines. Religious leadership may have inadvertently democratized theology.

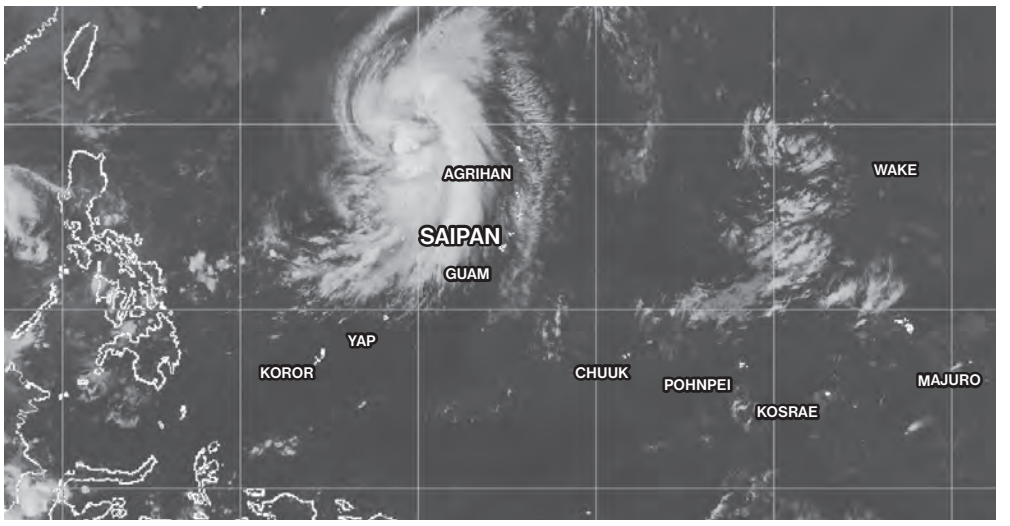
Regardless of one's vaccine views, the COVID vaccine mandate battle will set a larger precedent for religion in America—legal and beyond.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph. Lows around 76. Highs near 86. Chance of showers 20 percent.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph. Lows around 76. Highs near 86. Chance of showers 20 percent.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Highs in the upper 80s. Lows in the upper 70s. Chance of showers 20 percent.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Highs in the upper 80s. Lows in the upper 70s. Chance of showers 20 percent.	Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 80s. Lows in the upper 70s.
86º / 76º	86º / 76º	86º / 76º	80º / 70º	80º / 70º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:38 AM, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows two bands of widely scattered showers, which are rather fragmented to say the least. The outermost rain band of Tropical Storm Malou can be seen at the extreme northwest edge of the radar. The Ipan buoy reveals combined seas of 3 to 5 feet, composed primarily of east trade-wind swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	PM Thunderstorms	86 / 78 °F
Palau	Mostly Sunny	86 / 77 °F
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86 / 79 °F
Chuuk	AM Thunderstorms	86 / 80 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86 / 76 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	84 / 79 °F
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84 / 79 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:11 AM	5:50 PM
Thursday	6:11 AM	5:49 PM
Friday	6:11 AM	5:49 PM
Saturday	6:12 AM	5:48 PM
Sunday	6:12 AM	5:48 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	11:27 AM	10:50 PM
Thursday	-	12:16 PM	11:44 PM
Friday	-	1:04 PM	-
Saturday	12:38	1:48 PM	-
Sunday	1:32	2:31 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	67 / 59 °F
Beijing	Sunny	69 /41 °F
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	80 / 74 °F
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	85 / 73 °F
London	Mostly Cloudy	62 / 54 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	82 / 60 °F
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90 / 78 °F
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	78 / 61 °F
Miami	Partly Cloudy	86 / 75 °F
New York	Mostly Cloudy	61 / 50 °F
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	68 / 54 °F
Paris	Mostly Sunny	65 / 44 °F
Busan	Partly Cloudy	72 / 49 °F
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	72 / 49 °F
Salem	Partly Cloudy	73 / 56 °F
San Francisco	AM Clouds/PM Sun	66 / 55 °F
Seoul	Sunny	65 / 41 °F
Tokyo	Cloudy	62 / 54 °F
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	69 / 50 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
5:30 AM	Low Tide	-0.04
1:29 AM	High Tide	1.57
6:56 PM	Low Tide	1.25
10:23 PM	High Tide	1.37

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 5, 2021

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	6:45am	7:25am	1, 3, 6
UA117	9:45am	10:25am	2, 4, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	2, 5
UA183	7:25pm	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	6:45am	9:10pm	1, 3, 6 via Guam
UA117/183	9:45am	8:50pm	2, 5 via Guam
UA117/183	9:45am	9:10pm	4, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	6
TW9308	3:20PM	8:00PM	4
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	6

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:00am	5:41am	1, 3, 6
UA174	8:00am	8:41am	2, 4, 5, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	9:50pm	3:55am+1	2, 5
UA184	10:25pm	4:30am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	9:50pm	5:41am+1	2, 5 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25pm	5:41am+1	7 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:41am+1	1, 3, 4, 6 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	6
TW9307	10:00AM	2:20PM	4

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

Tokio Marine Pacific Insurance gets A+ rating from AM Best

AM Best has revised the outlooks to stable from negative and affirmed the Financial Strength Rating of A+ (Superior) and the Long-Term Issuer Credit Rating of "aa-" (Superior) of Tokio Marine Pacific Insurance Ltd. (Guam).

The ratings reflect TMPI's balance sheet strength, which AM Best assesses as very strong, as well as its adequate operating performance, neutral business profile and appropriate enterprise risk management. The ratings also acknowledge the wide range of implicit and explicit support that TMPI receives from its parent, Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.

The revised outlooks mainly reflect the company's various initiatives to stabilize its credit fundamentals in recent years, which include capital accumulation, a rate increase exercise for commercial accident & health accounts, pursuit of a more diversified A&H portfolio, as well as stricter underwriting and pricing discipline in both the A&H and property & casualty segments.

TMPI has a historical track record of positive and stable operating performance, although AM Best expects its underwriting margin to remain relatively thin due to the company's A&H focus and market competition. TMPI reported favorable performance in 2020 and the first half of 2021, mainly due to decreased medical claims frequency amid the COVID-19 pandemic. However, AM Best notes that TMPI's bottom-line remains subject to external factors over the coming years, such as a potential medical claims rebound after the pandemic, pressured investment earnings amid a low interest rate environment, and additional tax obligations.

The risk-adjusted capitalisation of TMPI is assessed at the strongest level, as measured by Best's Capital Adequacy Ratio. Its absolute capital base remains larger than its domestic peers in Guam, on the back of solid growth of its capital and surplus over the past 10 years, driven by earnings retention. The balance sheet is also underpinned by its highly conservative investment strategy and low reinsurance dependency.

TMPI is a wholly owned subsidiary of TMNF and its ultimate parent, Tokio Marine Holdings, Inc., is one of Japan's largest non-life insurance groups. The company has a strong presence in Guam's non-life industry, mainly supported by its dominant position in the A&H segment. Despite a material drop in premium income following the non-renewal of the GovGuam account in 2020 and 2021, the company's premium base remained supported by a large volume of business from its commercial A&H accounts and federal employee health plan, which the company has grown steadily over the past years for business diversification.

Negative rating actions could occur if TMPI's risk-adjusted capitalisation declines significantly or if there is a material decline in the company's A&H business volume or market share to a level that no longer supports the current business profile assessment. Negative rating actions may also arise if support from TMNF is reduced to an extent that no longer supports the current level of enhancement.

AM Best remains the leading rating agency of alternative risk transfer entities, with more than 200 such vehicles rated throughout the world. For current Best's Credit Ratings and independent data on the captive and alternative risk transfer insurance market, visit www.ambest.com/captive.

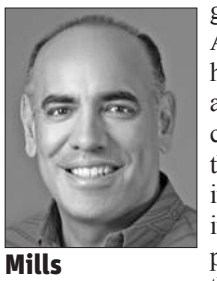
AM Best is a global credit rating agency, news publisher and data analytics provider specializing in the insurance industry. Headquartered in the United States, the company does business in over 100 countries with regional offices in London, Amsterdam, Dubai, Hong Kong, Singapore and Mexico City. ***(PR)***

Elliot K. Mills elected to Bank of Hawaii board

HONOLULU, Hawaii—Bank of Hawaii Corp. announced yesterday that its board of directors has elected Elliot K. Mills to serve on its board of directors effective Oct. 22, 2021, until the annual election of directors at the bank's next annual shareholders meeting.

With the addition of Mills, Bank of Hawaii Corp.'s board of directors increases from 13 to 14. Mills serves on Bank of Hawaii's Human Resources and Compensation Committee, Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and Digital Advisory Committee.

"On behalf of Bank of Hawaii, I am delighted to welcome Elliot to our board of directors," said Peter Ho, chairman, president, and chief executive officer of Bank of Hawaii Corp. "He is uniquely qualified, has an abundance of expertise and insight of our local travel industry, and shares the same values, goals, and passion for moving Hawaii forward."



Mills

Mills is currently vice president of hotel operations for Disneyland Resort and Aulani, A Disney Resort and Spa, leading a team of over 5,000 employees across four locations. He is responsible for overseeing all operations for the Disneyland Hotel, Disney's Paradise Pier Hotel and Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa in Anaheim, Calif., in addition to Aulani, A Disney Resort & Spa, in Ko Olina, Hawaii, on Oahu. He joined Disney in 2010, and was an integral leader in the grand opening of the Aulani resort. Mills had a special focus on advancing Hawaiian culture and values as the focal point for its unique hospitality and service experience. Since then, the company has received national recognition, including being named 2020's "Best Family Hotel in the USA" by *U.S. News & World Report*.

With over 25 years of experience, Mills has held various executive and resort management positions on the islands of Oahu, Kauai and Maui at top travel companies, including Hyatt, Marriott, and Outrigger. Prior to Disney, he held the positions of general manager at both Outrigger Hotels & Resorts on Oahu and at Kauai Marriott Resort.

A native of Hilo on Hawaii Island, Mills has strong ties to the community and gives back by serving on a variety of boards, including Hawaii Pacific Health, Hawaii Medical Service Association, Hawaii Community Foundation, and Kamehameha Schools. He also currently serves as chairman of the board for the Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau.

Mills is a graduate of Saint Joseph High School, holds a degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in travel industry management from the University of Hawaii at Mānoa, and has completed the Cornell Hospitality Management General Managers Program. ***(PR)***

Billionaire tax hits critics as Biden pushes for budget deal

AP

President Joe Biden participates in a CNN town hall at the Baltimore Center Stage Pearlstone Theater, Thursday, Oct. 21, 2021, in Baltimore.

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Democrats' idea for a new billionaires' tax to help pay for President Joe Biden's social services and climate change plan quickly ran into criticism as too cumbersome with some lawmakers preferring the original plan of simply raising the top tax rates on corporations and the wealthy.

Biden said Monday he's hopeful the talks with Congress can wrap up overall agreement on the package this week. It's tallying at least $1.75 trillion, and could still be more. Biden said it would be "very, very positive to get it done" before he departs for two overseas global summits.

"That's my hope," the president said before leaving his home state of Delaware for a trip to New Jersey to highlight the child care proposals in the package and a related infrastructure measure. "With the grace of God and the goodwill of the neighbors."

Resolving the revenue side is key as the Democrats scale back what had been a $3.5 trillion plan, insisting all the new spending will be fully paid for and not pile onto the debt. Biden vows any new taxes would hit only the wealthy, those earning more than $400,000 a year, or $450,000 for couples.

The White House had to rethink its tax strategy after one key Democrat, Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., objected to her party's initial proposal to raise tax rates on wealthy Americans by undoing the Trump-era tax cuts on those earning beyond $400,000. Sinema also opposed lifting the 21% corporate tax rate. With a 50-50 Senate, Biden has no votes to spare in his party.

Instead, to win over Sinema and others, the White House has been floating a new idea of taxing the assets of billionaires and another that would require corporations to pay a 15% minimum tax, regardless of if they show any profits. Those both appear to be gaining traction with another pivotal Democrat, Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., who told reporters he supported new ways to ensure the wealthy to pay their "fair share."

US industry wonders: What should tomorrow's casino floor be?

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)—Walk into a casino today, and chances are it won't look that much different than it did in the 1942 movie "Casablanca" when Humphrey Bogart made his way through the gambling tables in the smoke-filled room.

Sure, the slot machines are larger, louder and flashier than they were back then. But the central fact remains that the casino floor of today is not all that different than the casino floor of yesteryear.

What the casino floor of the future should look like is a question the gambling industry has wrestled with for decades.

And it still has no definitive answers.

The topic was discussed Monday at the East Coast Gaming Congress, a major gambling conference in Atlantic City.

One big question: How to get young people interested in what casinos have to offer.

"It's tough to get that kid out of his parents' basement, and casino games aren't going to do it," said Joe Lupo, president of Atlantic City's Hard Rock casino, referring to young adults.

The industry has tried several tactics to attract younger gamblers, with varying rates of success. Six years ago, Atlantic City debuted so-called "skill-based" games for its casinos.

They were games in which a player's ability to perform a certain task was taken into account in determining whether he or she would win or lose a game—a departure from the strict random games of chance that have been the backbone of the gambling industry since its inception.

But they never really caught on, and most were quietly removed in less than a year.

Casino executives and gambling equipment manufacturers at Monday's conference agreed younger customers want varied experiences, much more than the monotony of pushing a button and waiting to see whether they've won or lost.

"The younger generation likes to do things," said Rick Meitzler, CEO of gambling manufacturer Novomatic Americas. "They like to play on their phones. Ten to 15 years from now, you'll see that 25-year-old become a 40-year-old and part of our target audience."

But can casinos afford to wait that long?

Jacqueline Grace, senior vice president of Atlantic City's Tropicana casino, said her company is constantly studying younger gamblers.

"What appeals to them?" she asked. "What gets them going? They like games of skill, not games of chance. They like to eat. They like to travel. They like experiences."

Most casinos have embraced electronic tables games, not only as a way to save on labor costs, but to offer a low-stress introduction to games, particularly card games, that novice gamblers might find intimidating.

Panelists agrees that sports betting and particularly esports, or competitive video gaming, offer an opportunity to connect with younger potential customers.

Atlantic City and particularly Las Vegas have begun to embrace esports as a way to fill their casinos and hotels with young customers interested first and foremost in playing online games against each other. But when they're done, they order food and drinks and engage in non-gambling activities that the casino resorts offer.

"We think esports is the next big thing," said Robert Heller, president and CEO of Spectrum Gaming Capital. "Every casino company I've talked to is interested. This is happening."

Ari Fox, co-CEO of Gameacon, an esports tournament company, said the key is reaching younger customers where they are.

Nation

First responders take care of people who were inside the Boise Towne Square shopping mall when a man opened fire at the mall Monday, Oct. 25, 2021, in Boise, Idaho. AP

'We've got to run'—Idaho mall shooting leaves 2 dead

BOISE, Idaho (AP)—Police say they exchanged gunfire with a suspect during a shooting at a shopping mall in Boise, Idaho, that killed two people and injured four—including an officer.

Boise Police Chief Ryan Lee said at a news conference the shooting was reported about 1:50 p.m. on Monday—as well as a report that one person was "shot and down" at that time.

When the officers arrived, they spotted someone who matched the description of the suspect.

"There was an exchange of gunfire that ensued shortly thereafter, resulting in the officer's injury, as well as the suspect being taken into custody," Lee said. Investigators believe there was only one shooter, and there is no ongoing danger to the public, he said.

Police on Monday evening said in a news release that the suspect was in critical condition at a hospital and that the officer who was hurt had been treated and released. Authorities didn't release any other information about the victims or the suspect, saying the investigation was ongoing.

"We really cannot at this time speak to any motivation behind it," Lee said.

The Boise Towne Square shopping mall is the city's largest mall. "I cannot stress enough how traumatic this event is for the community at large, as well as for those that were witnesses, or are the families of those involved or involved themselves," Lee said.

After the shooting, several witnesses stood in the rain outside the entrance to Macy's—one of five large department stores at the mall—waiting to be interviewed by police or told they could leave. Patrol cars from several agencies, ambulances and fire trucks filled a section of the mall parking lot. Officers from the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives were assisting in the investigation.

About a quarter of a mile away, officers closed part of a road near a busy intersection so they could investigate a second crime scene related to the shooting incident. Officers at the second crime scene declined to answer questions.

COVID cases falling, but trouble signs rise as winter approaches

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tumbling COVID-19 case counts have some schools around the U.S. considering relaxing their mask rules, but deaths nationally have been ticking up over the past few weeks, some rural hospitals are showing signs of strain, and cold weather is setting in.

The number of new cases nationally has been plummeting since the delta surge peaked in mid-September. The U.S. is averaging about 73,000 new cases per day, dramatically lower than the 173,000 recorded on Sept. 13. And the number of Americans in the hospital with COVID-19 has plummeted by about half to around 47,000 since early September.

In Florida, Miami-Dade County's mask mandate could be loosened by the end of October if the encouraging numbers continue, and nearby Broward County will discuss relaxing its requirement on Tuesday. The superintendent in metro Atlanta said he will consider waiving mask requirements at individual schools.

A high school outside Boston became the first in Massachusetts to make masks optional after it hit a state vaccination threshold. With about 95% of eligible people at Hopkinton High inoculated, school leaders voted to allow vaccinated students and staff to go maskless for a three-week trial period starting Nov. 1.

Still, there are some troubling indicators, including the onset of cold weather, which sends people indoors, where the virus can more easily spread.

ACROSS THE NATION

TikTok star pleads not guilty to double murder in San Diego

SAN DIEGO (AP)—A TikTok star with nearly a million online followers pleaded not guilty on Monday to shooting and killing his newly estranged wife and a man she was with last week at a San Diego high-rise. Prosecutors said Ali Abulaban had surreptitiously installed a listening device on his 5-year-old daughter's tablet device, and when he heard his wife and another man talking, he went to her apartment and shot them to death, the Union-Tribune reported. After the shootings, Abulaban, still armed, picked up his daughter from school, Deputy District Attorney Taren Brast said. The details were revealed during the San Diego County Superior Court arraignment for Abulaban, who pleaded not guilty to two counts of murder as well as special-circumstance allegations of multiple killings, the newspaper reported.

Ports of LA, Long Beach to fine firms over container backlog

LOS ANGELES (AP)—In an effort to ease congestion at the nation's busiest port complex, officials said Monday that they will start fining shipping companies whose cargo containers linger for too long at marine terminals. The twin ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach said in a statement that arriving containers scheduled to be moved by trucks will be allowed to stay for nine days before fines start accruing. Containers set to move by rail can stay at the ports for three days. After that, ocean carriers will be charged $100 per container, increasing in $100 increments per container per day, the statement said. The new rules will go into effect Nov. 1.

Judge in Chauvin trial to release names of jurors on Nov. 1

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The judge who oversaw the murder trial of former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin said Monday that he will make the names of 15 jurors and alternates who sat in the courtroom public next week. Judge Peter Cahill's order said he will make the list of jurors public on Nov. 1. The written questionnaires of all 109 potential jurors who were formally evaluated will also be made public. Chauvin, who is white, was convicted in April of second-degree murder, third-degree murder and manslaughter in the May 25, 2020 death of George Floyd. He was sentenced to 22 1/2 years for kneeling on Floyd's neck for 9 1/2 minutes as the Black man said he couldn't breathe. Cahill initially kept the names of the jurors sealed, citing the high-profile nature of the case, and had ordered that their identities remain secret for at least 180 days after the verdict. A media coalition, which includes The Associated Press, had asked Cahill to release the jurors' identities, saying the media and public have a right to the information and there was no known threat to juror safety that would warrant keeping their names sealed.

4 still in hospital, 2 critical, from deadly drag race crash

KERRVILLE, Texas (AP)—Four people remained hospitalized Monday, two in critical condition, after a weekend drag racing crash in the Texas Hill Country that killed two children, police said.

The crash happened during a Saturday racing event on a runway at the Kerrville-Kerr County Airport, about 50 miles (85 kilometers) northwest of San Antonio. In a statement Monday, Kerrville police said two women—a 27-year-old from Taylor, Texas, and a 46-year-old from Converse, Texas—were in critical condition at University Hospital in San Antonio. Meantime, race car driver Michael Gonzales, 34, of Fort Worth, was in stable condition Monday at a San Antonio hospital. A 26-year-old man was in stable condition at Dell Seton Medical Center in Austin. Two other adults were treated for minor injuries at the crash scene and released, and a four-year-old boy and a three-month-old girl were examined at a Kerrville hospital and released.

Sheriff: Child's remains, 3 abandoned siblings found in home

HOUSTON (AP)—The skeletal remains of a child were found inside an apartment in the Houston area along with three surviving siblings who appear to have been abandoned, a sheriff said. One of the children, a 15-year-old, called the Harris County Sheriff's Office on Sunday afternoon and told authorities that his 9-year-old brother had been dead for a year and the body was inside the apartment, the office said in a statement. Deputies responded and found the teen, and two other siblings ages 10 and 7, living alone in the apartment, Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez told reporters. The skeletal remains were also located. "It appears that the remains had been there for an extended period of time. And I emphasize extended," Gonzalez said. The sheriff said it also appeared that the surviving children were "fending for each other," with the oldest sibling caring for the younger two. It was unclear whether any of the kids were attending school.

Asia

Apple once threatened FB ban for maid abuse cases

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Two years ago, Apple threatened to pull Facebook and Instagram from its app store over concerns about the platform being used as a tool to trade and sell maids in the Mideast.

After publicly promising to crack down, Facebook acknowledged in internal documents obtained by The Associated Press that it was "under-enforcing on confirmed abusive activity" that saw Filipina maids complaining on the social media site of being abused. Apple relented and Facebook and Instagram remained in the app store.

But Facebook's crackdown seems to have had a limited effect. Even today, a quick search for "khadima," or "maids" in Arabic, will bring up accounts featuring posed photographs of Africans and South Asians with ages and prices listed next to their images. That's even as the Philippines government has a team of workers that do nothing but scour Facebook posts each day to try and protect desperate job seekers from criminal gangs and unscrupulous recruiters using the site.

While the Mideast remains a crucial source of work for women in Asia and Africa hoping to provide for their families back home, Facebook acknowledged some countries across the region have "especially egregious" human rights issues when it comes to laborers' protection.

"In our investigation, domestic workers frequently complained to their recruitment agencies of being locked in their homes, starved, forced to extend their contracts indefinitely, unpaid, and repeatedly sold to other employers without their consent," one Facebook document read. "In response, agencies commonly told them to be more agreeable."

The report added: "We also found recruitment agencies dismissing more serious crimes, such as physical or sexual assault, rather than helping domestic workers."

In a statement to the AP, Facebook said it took the problem seriously, despite the continued spread of ads exploiting foreign workers in the Mideast.

"We prohibit human exploitation in no uncertain terms," Facebook said. "We've been combating human trafficking on our platform for many years and our goal remains to prevent anyone who seeks to exploit others from having a home on our platform."

This story, along with others published Monday, is based on disclosures made to the Securities and Exchange Commission and provided to Congress in redacted form by former Facebook employee-turned-whistleblower Frances Haugen's legal counsel. The redacted versions were obtained by a consortium of news organizations, including the AP. The Wall Street Journal previously wrote about Apple's threat to remove Facebook and Instagram.

Taken as a whole, the trove of documents show that Facebook's daunting size and user base around the world—a key factor in its rapid ascent and near trillion-dollar valuation—also proves to be its greatest weakness in trying to police illicit activity, such as the sale of drugs, and suspected human rights and labor abuses on its site.

Activists say Facebook, based in Menlo Park, California, has both an obligation and likely the means to fully crack down on the abuses their services facilitate as it earns tens of billions of dollars each year in revenue.

"While Facebook is a private company, when you have billions of users, you are effectively like a state and therefore you have social responsibilities de facto, whether you like it or not," said Mustafa Qadri, the executive director of Equidem Research, which studies migrant labor.

"These workers are being recruited and going to places to work like the Gulf, the Middle East, where there is practically no proper regulation of how they're recruited and how they're treated when they end up in the places where they work. So when you put those two things together, really, it's a recipe for disaster."

Mary Ann Abunda, who works with a nongovernmental Filipino workers' welfare group called Sandigan in Kuwait, similarly warned of the danger the site can pose.

"Facebook really has two faces," Abunda said. "Yes, as it advertises, it's connecting people, but it has also become a haven of sinister people and syndicates who wait for your weak moment to pounce on you."

ASIA BRIEFS

Hospital says ex-S. Korean president Roh Tae-woo has died

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Seoul hospital says former South Korean President Roh Tae-woo has died.

Japan's Princess Mako marries commoner, loses royal status

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese Princess Mako married a commoner and lost her royal status Tuesday in a union that has split public opinion after a three-year delay caused by a financial dispute involving her new mother-in-law. The marriage document for Mako and Kei Komuro was submitted by a palace official Tuesday morning and is now official, the Imperial Household Agency said. No longer a royal, Mako has now taken the surname of her husband and become Mako Komuro—the first time she has had a family name. In Japan's imperial family, only male members are given household names, while female members only have titles and must leave if they marry commoners.

Hong Kong to tighten COVID-19 rules, seeks to open to China

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong will tighten COVID-19 restrictions despite a lack of local outbreaks to better align with China's policies and increase chances of quarantine-free travel between the territory and mainland, leader Carrie Lam said Tuesday. It will step up contact tracing, such as requiring the use of its LeaveHomeSafe app in government premises to record the coming and going of visitors. It will also tighten quarantine rules to exempt only emergency workers or those in essential industries such as logistics. Currently, those exempt from quarantine include airline crew, banking and insurance executives, directors of public companies, as well as crew members on cargo and passenger ships, among others.

World

Thousands of pro-democracy protesters take to the streets to condemn a takeover by military officials in Khartoum, Sudan, Monday Oct. 25, 2021. AP

Sudan's military takes power in coup, arrests country's PM

CAIRO (AP)—Sudan's military seized power Monday, dissolving the transitional government hours after troops arrested the prime minister, and thousands flooded the streets to protest the coup that threatened the country's shaky progress toward democracy.

Security forces opened fire on some of them, and three protesters were killed, according to the Sudan Doctors' Committee, which also said 80 people were wounded.

The takeover, which drew condemnation from the United Nations, the United States and the European Union, comes more than two years after protesters forced the ouster of longtime autocrat Omar al-Bashir and just weeks before the military was supposed to hand the leadership of the council that runs the country over to civilians.

Source: AP,BBC
Graphic: Staff, TNS

The U.N. Security Council scheduled an emergency closed meeting on the Sudan coup late Tuesday afternoon. The United States, United Kingdom, France, Ireland, Norway and Estonia requested the emergency consultations..

After the early morning arrests of Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok and other senior officials, thousands demonstrated in the streets of the capital, Khartoum, and its twin city of Omdurman. They blocked streets and set fire to tires as security forces used tear gas to disperse them.

As plumes of smoke rose, protesters could be heard chanting, "The people are stronger, stronger!" and "Retreat is not an option!" Social media video showed crowds crossing bridges over the Nile to the center of the capital. The U.S. Embassy warned that troops were blocking parts of the city and urged the military "to immediately cease violence."

WORLD BRIEFS

Officials say 18 villagers shot dead at mosque in Nigeria

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)—At least 18 worshippers were killed by gunmen who attacked a mosque in northern Nigeria during early morning prayers Monday, local authorities and police told The Associated Press. The attack took place in Mazakuka village in Mashegu local government area of the country's Niger state. The attackers, believed to be ethnic Fulani nomadic herders, were able to escape. Similar ethnic violence, which has led to hundreds of deaths so far this year, stems from a decades-long conflict over access to water and land. Some of the Fulani caught up in that conflict have taken up arms against local Hausa farming communities.

UN: Greenhouse gas levels hit a new record, cuts fall short

GENEVA (AP)—Greenhouse gas concentrations hit a new record high last year and increased at a faster rate than the annual average for the last decade despite a temporary reduction during pandemic lockdowns, the World Meteorological Organization said in a report published Monday. The news came as the United Nations climate office warned that the world remains off target for meeting its goal of cutting emissions as part of international efforts to curb global warming. Both announcements came days before the start of a U.N. climate change conference in Glasgow, Scotland. Many environmental activists, policymakers and scientists say the Oct. 31-Nov. 12 event, known as COP26 for short, marks an important and even crucial opportunity for concrete commitments to the targets set out in the 2015 Paris climate accord.

UN: Iran executes people at 'alarming rate'—250 in 2020

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Iran executed over 250 people, including at least four child offenders, in 2020 and so far this year has carried out 230 executions that included nine women and one child who was executed in secret, the U.N. independent investigator on human rights in Iran said Monday. Javaid Rehman told the U.N. General Assembly's human rights committee that Iran continues to implement the death penalty "at an alarming rate" and said "the absence of official statistics and lack of transparency around executions means that this practice escapes scrutiny resulting in serious abuses preventing accountability." According to Amnesty International, Iran was the top executioner in the Middle East last year, accounting for more than half the region's 493 executions, followed by Egypt, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. Amnesty's annual figures exclude China, where executions believed to number in the thousands are classified as a state secret, and omit executions from some countries marred by conflict like Syria.

Good Housekeeping

Take advantage of your empty vertical space with these 15 tricks

By LIA SESTRIC
GOBANKINGRATES.COM

If you size up the walls of your home, you'll likely find more empty vertical space than you know what to do with. Vertical space is basically a blank canvas for you to design in any way you please.

But by taking advantage of vertical space, you can gain practical space in your home. And in some cases, vertical space can save you from having to spend major bucks on redecorating. Check out these home redecorating tips that will save you space and money.

ADD A VERTICAL GARDEN

Never find yourself lacking the herbs for a recipe again. You can enhance your spice collection—and your cooking—with a stunning vertical herb garden, which also serves as a cheap way to spruce up a dull space.

"It offers a unique, space-saving way to harvest fresh herbs, while adding lush greenery to a kitchen or an outdoor area," said Tori Toth, a professional home stager and author.

You don't need much to get started, either. Pick a container type, such as a Mason jar, and attach several of them to the wall. Then, fill with the herbs of your choice, water as needed and watch your garden grow.

CONSIDER ABOVE-DOORWAY SHELVING

Next time you look up at your doorway, think about the vertical space you're wasting. According to Larry Greene, owner of Case Design/ Remodeling in Indiana, this is a perfect area for storage or decor.

"A nice aspect of doing this is that you can often make the space look more open, because you're displacing items that were previously at eye level," he said.

This easy redecorating trick doesn't cost much at all. You can simply add a shelf and display items you already have, such as bowls, vases, decorative storage boxes or a combination of all three.

THINK THIN AND TALL FOR VISUAL INTEREST

If you have an abundance of empty vertical space in a room, Greene recommended incorporating pieces that are tall rather than wide. Doing this lets you add "visual variation and interest to a room."

Fortunately, you don't have to go out and purchase furnishings that are large and expensive. To tackle this designer trick, simply stack several pieces of art or family pictures on the wall vertically to add height.

USE THE BACK OF A DOOR

If your home is starting to feel cramped, Toth recommends using the vertical space on the back of a door. She says a door pocket storage organizer can be used for bathroom toiletries, dry food storage or even office supplies and crafts.

As an added benefit, pocket storage is relatively affordable. You can find a pocket organizer for less than $15 at Target.

ADD FREESTANDING FURNITURE

To elongate a room and maximize space, consider adding furniture that's also functional.

"Freestanding armoires, media cabinets and bookcases that are narrow and stretch upward can add practical efficiency to a vertical space," said Jeffrey Weldler, an interior design expert at Vant Wall Panels.

For added visual appeal, he recommended adding potted greenery and colorful pottery on top of furniture pieces.

MAKE THE MOST OF CLOSETS

A lot of empty space goes to waste in closets. According to Weldler, shelving is a practical choice for these areas, too.

"It immediately gives space for shoes, handbags and more," he said.

Although you could spend a small fortune on a high-end wardrobe closet, you can find low-cost closet organizers at stores such as The Container Store, Target, Home Depot and Lowe's. You can also opt to hang baskets on the closet walls instead of using bins that occupy floor space.

ADD VERTICAL SPACE UNDER YOUR BED

Having too much stuff in a bedroom can make it look small and cluttered. If you need to maximize space, Weldler recommended adding risers to your bed.

"It immediately opens up storage space under your bed, which is the perfect place to store off-season clothing, holiday decorations and other items you don't use frequently," he said.

Rather than buying extra furnishings to store these items, opt to hide the clutter from sight by keeping it under your bed.

CREATE TWO SPACES IN ONE

If your living quarters are cramped, you might want to add office space but lack the room for a desk. Fortunately, there is an easy way to fix that issue. According to Weldler, you should consider adding a loft bed to your home.

"They make grown-up versions that create space underneath (the bed) perfect for your home office or dressers. This is particularly helpful in a studio apartments," he said.

Although this space-saving technique involves purchasing a loft bed, you will get a great deal of extra space for your investment.

MAKE USE OF MIRRORS

Mirrors are an easy way to redecorate, particularly when it comes to taking advantage of vertical spaces. They're relatively cheap and can quickly add character and depth to a room.

Interior designer and home staging expert Sandy Levin offers a word of caution, though. "You must be careful it is reflecting something beautiful that you would want repeated in the room, such as a gorgeous window view," said Levin.

If you don't have any mirrors to fill these spaces already, check out the selection at your local thrift store. You might be able to find a framed mirror that will fit your taste after a little TLC.

ADD COLOR AND STRIPES

According to Toth, an easy way to spruce up vertical space is to liven walls with new paint or add stripes to existing paint.

"Painting the room a lighter color so you can reflect more light definitely maximizes space," she said. "Take it one step further and paint your ceiling the same color to blur the lines or try adding a pop of color or simple wallpaper to your ceiling, which will force people to look and visualize the height of the space."

This design trick is a relatively cheap one, if you can swing the paint job yourself. For inspiration, check out Pinterest or Houzz.

CREATE A GALLERY WALL

When it comes to redecorating, there should always be a piece in the room that's an attention grabber. A gallery wall certainly draws the eye.

You can use artwork you've collected over the years, children's framed paintings or drawings and photographs of the family to create a wall collage. These galleries eat up a lot of space without driving up your credit card bill. And if you're in need of frames, you can always purchase some second-hand for a discount.

LIFT UP THE CLUTTER IN YOUR KITCHEN

Clutter can cost you money. And clutter in your kitchen can mask an attractive kitchen and make it far less functional. This is particularly true for those kitchens that are short on counter space.

Maximizing vertical space is crucial for kitchens that need uncluttering. Consider putting shelving on an empty wall. You can then put coffee mugs, jars or bowls on display. If done correctly, this kitchen design idea can be decorative, functional and cost-effective at the same time.

CREATE A HANGING FILE CABINET

Mail and other items typically end up being thrown on the kitchen counter somewhere—unless you have a filing system. Fortunately, an empty wall serves this purpose well.

Adding a hanging file cabinet to your vertical space can save you money in more ways than one. First, you won't run the risk of losing important documents or missing bill payments, because you'll be more organized. Second, you don't have to purchase an organizer, as you can easily make one yourself. For instance, you can hang baskets on the wall and label them according to purpose.

MAXIMIZE CORNER NOOKS

Just because it's a corner doesn't mean it has to be bare. The corner of a room can be the perfect spot for a wall bookshelf, art display or picture gallery.

One logical place for a corner shelf is above the desk. You can strategically place a plant, picture or books there to create a visually pleasing display. This design element can help distract from any clutter surrounding your desk, as well. And if you make the shelves yourself, this can be a very cost-effective decorating trick.

ADD WORD ART

No one said art has to be expensive. Buy wood-carved letters at your local craft store, paint them your color of choice and hang.

The messaging is up to you, but the options are virtually endless. In the kitchen you could vertically hang letters to spell "EAT" or write out your child's name in his or her bedroom. This is a great way to utilize space and be creative, without having to spend a lot of money.

Life & Style

Assistant director of Baldwin film fired after 2019 mishap

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)—The assistant director who handed Alec Baldwin the gun that killed a cinematographer last week had been fired from a previous job after a gun went off on a set and wounded a member of the film crew, a producer said Monday.

The disclosure emerged as producers of Baldwin's movie officially halted filming, and court records showed that investigators seized more than two dozen items from the set on the day after the shooting.

In an email statement to The Associated Press, a producer for the movie "Freedom's Path" confirmed that Dave Halls was fired from the 2019 production after a crew member suffered a minor injury "when a gun was unexpectedly discharged." The producer, who asked not to be identified by name, wrote that Halls "was removed from the set immediately." Production did not resume until Halls was gone.

His firing from "Freedom's Path" was first reported by CNN. Halls has not returned phone calls and email messages seeking comment.

The producer is the second person to air doubts about Halls' safety record. On Sunday, another crew member who worked with Halls said she raised concerns about him in 2019.

Maggie Goll, a prop maker and licensed pyrotechnician, said in a statement that she filed an internal complaint with the executive producers of Hulu's "Into the Dark" series over Halls' behavior. Goll said in a phone interview that Halls disregarded safety protocols for weapons and pyrotechnics and tried to continue filming after the supervising pyrotechnician, who was diabetic, lost consciousness on set.

The fatal shooting and previous experiences point to larger safety issues, Goll said, adding that crew safety was a top issue in recent contract negotiations between a union that represents film and TV workers and a major producers' group.

"This situation is not about Dave Halls. ... It's in no way one person's fault," she said. "It's a bigger conversation about safety on set and what we are trying to achieve with that culture."

In an email sent to "Rust" crew members over the weekend, the movie's production team confirmed that work on the Western has been suspended at least until the investigation is complete. The team said it is working with law enforcement and conducting its own internal safety review. The production company is also offering grief counseling.

The email suggested that work on the film could resume at some point.

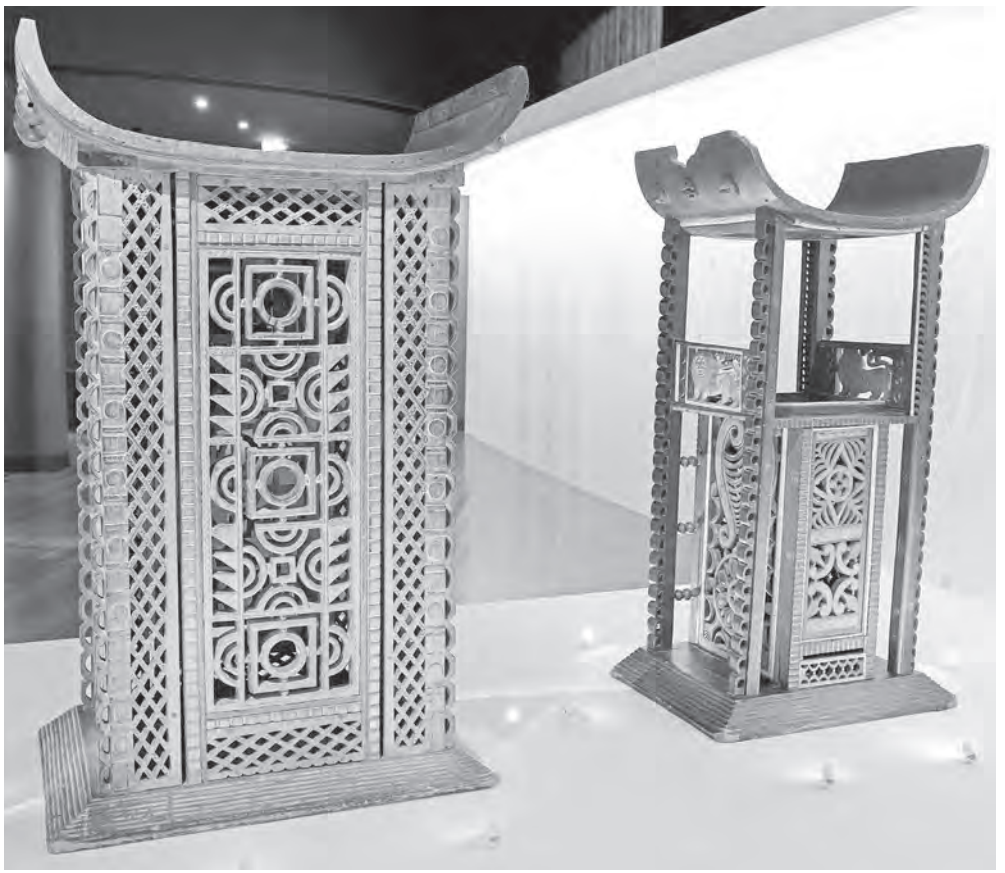
"Although our hearts are broken, and it is hard to see beyond the horizon, this is, at the moment, a pause rather than an end," the email read.

The sheriff's investigation continued Monday, and new court documents showed that authorities seized three black revolvers, ammunition boxes, a fanny pack with ammunition, several spent casings, two leather gun belts with holsters, articles of clothing and swabs of what were believed to be blood.

No charges have been filed. Prosecutors and law enforcement officers were expected to provide an update on the investigation Wednesday.

Moments before the shooting, Baldwin was explaining how he was going to draw the revolver from his holster and where his arm would be positioned, court records show.

The actor had been told that the gun was safe to use for the rehearsal of a scene in which he was supposed to pull out the weapon while sitting in a church pew and point it at the camera, the records said.



The 19th century Throne of King Ghezo, left, and Throne of King Glele, from Benin, are pictured at the Quai Branly–Jacques Chirac museum, Monday, Oct. 25, 2021 in Paris. AP

129-year journey nears end as France returns Benin treasures

PARIS (AP)—In a move with potential ramifications for other European museums, France is displaying 26 looted colonial-era artifacts for one last time before returning them to Benin—a decision authorities in the West African country described as "historic."

The wooden anthropomorphic statues, royal thrones and sacred altars were pilfered by the French army 129 years ago. The French will have a final glimpse of the objects, from the collection known as the "Abomey Treasures," in the Musée du quai Branly–Jacques Chirac from Tuesday through Sunday.

Calixte Biah, curator of the Museum of History of Ouidah, Benin, where the artefacts will first be exhibited, said the occasion was historic.

"It's been more than one century that they have been removed from their historical context. And when you look at the quality of each of these artifacts altogether, you realize that ... there were great artists," he told The Associated Press.

Benin is founding a new museum in Abomey, partly funded by the French government, that will ultimately house the works.

President Emmanuel Macron suggested that France now needed to right the wrongs of the past, making a landmark speech in 2017 in which he said he can no longer accept "that a large part of many African countries' cultural heritage lies in France." It laid down a roadmap for the return of the royal treasures taken during the era of empire and colony.

So far, however, France has only turned over one item—a sword handed to the Army Museum in Senegal. And the 26 works going to Benin represent a tiny handful of the more than 90,000 artifacts from sub-Saharan Africa alone held in French museums.

"We see 26 artefacts. There are others, no? So I wouldn't say that we are ending a process. I'd say we are at the beginning of a process," Biah said.

"I think it would be decent that other countries which hold African artefacts take the same path as France," he added.

Earlier this year, Germany started a similar move. The decision was taken that German museums should work on a restitution plan to return to Nigeria artifacts known as the Benin Bronzes next year. These were looted from the royal palace of the Kingdom of Benin, in what is now southern Nigeria, by a British colonial expedition in 1897.

Infidelity continues to rock teetering marriage

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married for 25 years. He has recently started running around with his buddies and partying. He hardly has time for me anymore. I found out he had cheated on me, not once but several times, with different women. I was devastated, so I left for a while, but I decided to try to work things out.

During the time I was gone, I ended up cheating as well. I'm sorry for it, but I developed some very real feelings for someone. I haven't seen him in two years, but I still feel myself wanting him and wanting to be with him. I love my husband, and we are working things out, but I don't know what to do. I feel like I'm in love with both of them. I still talk to the other person via text, but we don't go any further.

DISTRESSED IN OHIO

DEAR DISTRESSED: You may BE in love with both of them, but you made a commitment to work things out with your husband. If you are sincere about it, you will have to disengage fully from the man you cheated with and concentrate on your marriage. If you are not sure you can do that, marital counseling may help you decide what your next step should be. But a word of warning: The grass is not always greener once you have jumped the fence.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I was at a bar a few weekends ago and met a handsome stranger who seemed slightly familiar. His name sounded like I had heard it before. We talked for hours, and it felt like we had known each other forever. He walked me back to my apartment, and we shared a kiss on my doorstep. The next morning, I made a horrifying discovery: He's my second cousin! We hadn't seen each other in more than 20 years. When I gave him the news, he told me he still wanted to try for a relationship. I'm confused about what to do and how to feel. Please help.

KISSING COUSIN IN MAINE

DEAR COUSIN: Marriage between second cousins is legal in every state. If you like this man, and it appears you do, let the relationship play out and see where it leads. If you are worried about possible genetic complications, they should be discussed with your physician (and his). Genetic testing should put your concerns to rest.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I've been with my boyfriend for four years. He talks about marrying me and has even given me an "engagement" ring. The problem is, whenever I ask him about setting a wedding date, he seems annoyed, like I'm trying to pressure him into marrying me. He gave me the ring almost three years ago. Should I end this relationship if we can't get on the same page?

ENGAGED IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

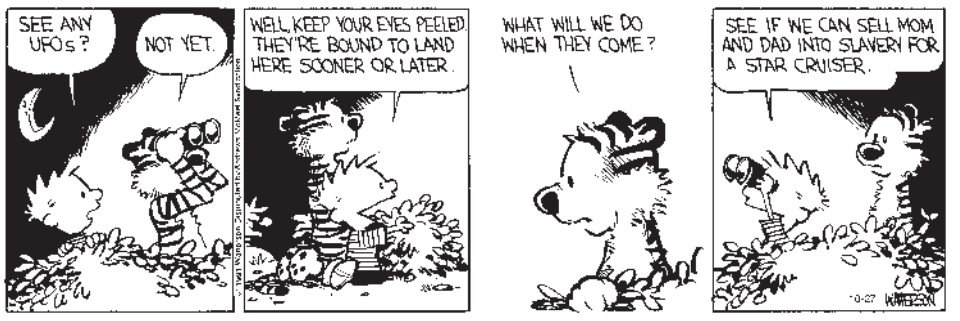
DEAR ENGAGED: You need to get to the bottom of why he is reluctant. If he's worried about the expense or uncomfortable about the hoopla of a big wedding, you could agree to have a small courthouse ceremony. However, unless your boyfriend (notice I didn't use the word "fiance") can come up with a solid reason for not being ready to follow through on his marriage proposal, ending the engagement is exactly what you should do, because the ring you're wearing is nothing more than a "promise" ring.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

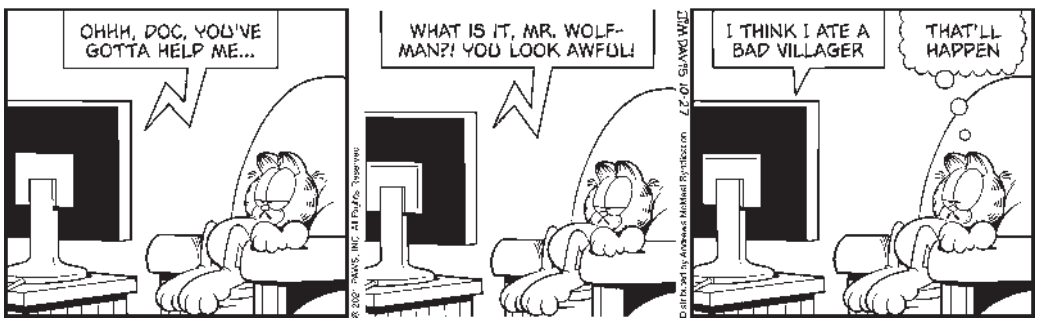
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


SEE ANY UFOs?
NOT YET.
WELL, KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED. THEY'RE BOUND TO LAND HERE SOONER OR LATER.
WHAT WILL WE DO WHEN THEY COME?
SEE IF WE CAN SELL MOM AND DAD INTO SLAVERY FOR A STAR CRUISER.

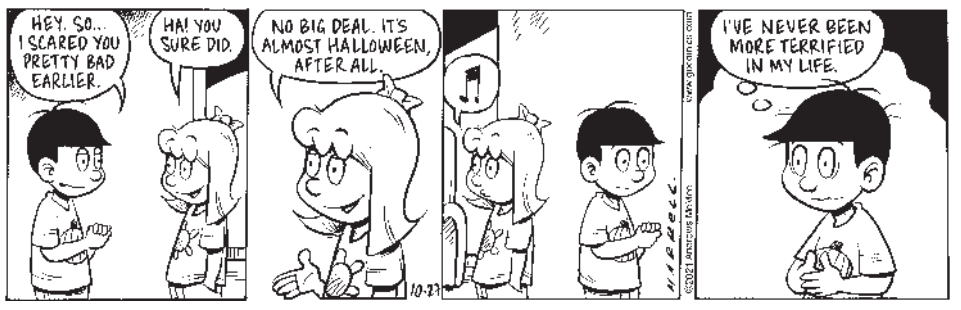
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@Home

By Bryan Basset


HEY. SO... I SCARED YOU PRETTY BAD EARLIER.
HA! YOU SURE DID.
NO BIG DEAL. IT'S ALMOST HALLOWEEN, AFTER ALL.
I'VE NEVER BEEN MORE TERRIFIED IN MY LIFE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

IS YOUR GODZILLA BACON BURGER ANY GOOD?
WELL, IT COMES WITH A MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE.
THAT GOOD, HUH?
YEP, WE GUARANTEE YOU'LL WANT YOUR MONEY BACK.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 June honorees
5 "Mayday!"
8 Swiss peaks
12 "Yeah, right!"
13 "Mangia!"
14 103, in old Rome
15 Worship
17 Border on
18 — -Lorraine
19 Entry
21 Actor Daniel — Kim
22 Hideaway
23 Wooden pin
26 — -mo (replay speed)
28 Civil rights org.
31 From the U.S.
33 Second-stringer
35 Doc's "Now!"
36 Sand formations
38 Game official
40 Sheeran and Harris
41 Send forth
43 Proof letters
45 Norway's continent
47 Togetherness
51 Gray's subj.
52 Move abroad
54 Locus
55 — kwon do
56 Radiate
57 Summers in Paris
58 Very popular
59 Stretches (out)

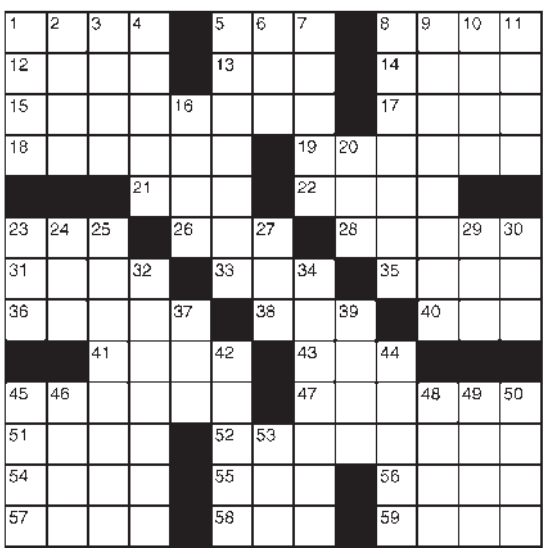
DOWN

1 Prima donna
2 Cain's brother
3 Lairs
4 Lieu
5 Sargasso wrigglers
6 Feedbag bit
7 Rob
8 Spiny trees
9 Set free
10 Name of 12 popes
11 Poses
16 Some TVs
20 Fire
23 Writer's block?
24 Big bird of Australia
25 Produce
27 Owned by us
29 Scoundrel
30 Score units (Abbr.)
32 Channel changers
34 "Hush!"
37 Try the wine
39 — shui
42 Choppers
44 Sad song
45 Lighten
46 One
48 Vaccine pioneer
49 Oklahoma tribe
50 Reporter's quest
53 Chinese chairman

Solution time: 23 mins.

C	E	D	E	■	B	O	N	■	L	M	P	S
O	R	E	L	■	R	K	O	■	N	O	A	H
U	N	A	F	R	A	■	D	■	A	N	N	E
P	E	N	■	A	V	E	■	C	L	A	S	S
■	■	■	U	F	O	■	R	A	T	■	■	■
T	A	U	N	T	■	C	E	R	E	A	L	S
E	L	S	A	■	W	O	O	■	F	E	A	P
N	I	B	B	L	E	D	■	G	E	R	M	Y
■	■	■	A	I	D	■	P	A	D	■	■	■
C	R	I	S	P	■	S	I	R	■	A	N	D
R	I	C	H	■	U	N	A	B	A	T	E	D
A	L	O	E	■	S	U	N	■	B	R	A	E
M	E	N	D	■	A	G	O	■	S	A	P	S

Yesterday's answer 10-27



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kelly Osbourne, 37; Patrick Fugit, 39; Natanya Ross, 40; John Cleese, 82.

Happy Birthday: You'll have a unique way of doing things that will separate you from the crowd. Be ready to put changes into play that will make your life and your relationships with others better. Personal growth, enlightenment and taking on situations that relieve stress will lead to peace of mind and new beginnings. Let go of the past so you can move forward with no regret. Your numbers are 4, 11, 24, 27, 33, 39, 42.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* It's OK to say no. Being a people pleaser can be exhausting. Stop and consider doing what pleases you for a change. Channel energy into something that brings concrete results that will encourage you to follow your dream. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* A friend or relative will offer unusual insight into how you can use your experience, knowledge and skills to get ahead. Don't resist change; harness an opportunity to show others what you have to offer. A change will boost your morale. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Jealousy will play a role in how well you get along with others. A positive attitude and offering recognition for what others accomplish will help you maintain healthy relationships. Don't take a risk with your health or emotional well-being. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Stop and think before you say or do something you'll regret. Getting into an emotional spat with someone will turn into a power struggle that will be difficult to overcome. Keep the peace, and channel your energy into a creative endeavor. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* An energetic approach to whatever you do will help you avoid disappointment. Don't wait around for someone to pitch in and help. Take care of unfinished business yourself, and move on to projects or pastimes that put a smile on your face. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* You'll get the help you require if you partner with someone who shares your beliefs and sentiments. Take your time when dealing with work-related matters. Make decisions based on facts, not emotions. Put your power and energy where it counts. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Keep your thoughts to yourself. If you say something while under emotional duress, you will have regrets. Be a good listener and take the time to sort out what matters most, then you'll find the best way to move forward without confrontation. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Explore the possibilities and learn all you can to ensure you make well-thought-out decisions. Take the path that leads to knowledge and experience in order to follow your heart and dreams. Be honest, and do what makes you happy. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Take a second look at a deal that sounds too good to be true. An impulsive move or letting gullibility take over will result in disappointment. Use your intelligence and charm to outmaneuver someone trying to take advantage of you. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* A discussion will turn into a debate. Do your best to keep the peace and avoid a feud that can disrupt a partnership. A compromise may not be ideal, but it will help you avoid regret. A positive attitude is encouraged. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Set a goal, and don't stop until you are satisfied with the results you get. Leave nothing unsaid or to chance. Take care of pressing details to avoid having your plans stymied by protocol. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Get involved in something that concerns you. You can make a difference if you are part of the solution, not the problem. How you handle medical and financial situations will affect your relationship with someone you love. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are passionate, emotional and powerful. You are outspoken and determined.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	8	3	2				4	7
		4	6	3		8	5	
				7		6		
			8	9	4			
		7				9		
4	1		7				8	
3							6	
	4	5	9				1	
			5	4			9	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/27

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

2	7	1	9	4	3	8	6	5
3	9	6	5	8	7	1	4	2
4	8	5	6	2	1	3	9	7
8	4	2	3	7	6	9	5	1
6	5	3	4	1	9	7	2	8
7	1	9	2	5	8	6	3	4
9	2	7	1	3	5	4	8	6
1	3	4	8	6	2	5	7	9
5	6	8	7	9	4	2	1	3

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

CANADA'S BANFF AND JASPER PARKS **Solution: 6 letters**

T	E	R	E	S	E	R	V	E	S	R	I	A	H	C
A	R	C	N	A	T	U	R	E	L	E	K	I	B	A
S	C	A	N	V	M	U	F	A	L	L	S	D	S	M
R	R	S	I	E	T	R	A	D	E	A	I	S	N	P
A	E	M	A	L	I	G	N	E	V	M	S	M	A	L
T	V	D	U	B	Ⓦ	C	K	C	A	J	E	T	R	P
S	O	C	R	Ⓞ	A	A	S	R	C	T	K	R	E	E
W	C	N	Ⓝ	I	L	H	Y	C	S	H	I	A	F	L
A	S	Ⓢ	Q	T	V	P	T	Y	L	T	H	I	O	S
P	I	C	E	U	L	E	S	A	E	I	L	L	R	E
I	D	N	E	N	I	O	H	O	Y	D	M	S	E	H
T	D	Y	W	N	C	N	U	F	L	E	R	A	S	C
I	A	C	R	E	E	K	R	I	V	E	R	A	T	A
D	R	I	B	L	I	R	W	S	S	K	A	T	E	E
S	K	I	I	N	G	V	Y	H	L	E	T	O	H	B

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Athabasca, Beaches, Bear, Bike, Bird, Camp, Cavell, Chairs, Climate, Creek, Culture, Dark, Discover, Drive, Ecosystem, Edith, Falls, Fish, Forest, Hikes, Hotel, Jack, Lake, Louise, Maligne, Meadow, Nature, Passes, Pyramid, Reserve, River, Scenery, Science, Skate, Skiing, Snare, Snow, Stars, Tend, Tonquin, Trade, Trails, Trailway, Tunnel, View, Wapiti, Wildlife, Yoho

Yesterday's Answer: Condiment

Treasuries 23 through 43 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Saints capitalize on Seahawks' mistakes for 13-10 win

SEATTLE (AP)—Brian Johnson kicked a 33-yard field goal with 1:56 remaining in his NFL debut, and the New Orleans Saints capitalized on a series of Seattle mistakes for a 13-10 win over the Seahawks on Monday night.

AP

New Orleans Saints' Brian Johnson (6) kicks a 33-yard file goal against the Seattle Seahawks late in the second half of an NFL football game, Monday, Oct. 25, 2021, in Seattle.

Alvin Kamara carried the load for New Orleans and Jameis Winston made a handful of plays when needed, but the Saints escaped Seattle thanks largely to a series of blunders by the home team, led by backup quarterback Geno Smith.

Two of the Seahawks' biggest mistakes came on New Orleans' deciding drive when Seattle was flagged for roughing the passer and jumping offside on a long field-goal attempt. Both penalties gave New Orleans first downs, and Johnson's field goal coming out of the 2-minute warning put the Saints ahead.

Johnson, a rookie from Virginia Tech, made an extra point and both field-goal tries, connecting from 21 yards in the first half.

Smith hit DK Metcalf for an 84-yard touchdown in the first quarter but went nowhere when the Seahawks had a final chance to tie or win. Smith was sacked on consecutive plays by Malcolm Jenkins and Demario Davis. On fourth-and-28, Smith was pressured again and his throw to Metcalf fell incomplete.

Smith went 12 of 22 for 167 yards and was sacked five times as Davis, Cameron Jordan and others made his night uncomfortable. He lost his second straight game starting in place of Russell Wilson, who injured his right middle finger in a defeat to the Rams three weeks ago and is out until at least mid-November.

Seattle has lost three straight for the first time since 2011 and fell to 0-3 at home.

Kamara finished with 10 catches for 128 yards and a 13-yard TD reception late in the first half. It was his fifth career regular-season game with double-digit receptions. He rushed for 51 yards.

Winston was 19 of 35 for 222 yards and added 43 yards rushing. He also made enough plays — thanks to Seattle penalties — to get the Saints in range for the winning field goal.

Seattle appeared to get a stop, but Marquise Blair was called for roughing the passer on a third-down sack after hitting Winston with the crown of his helmet. Kamara then sprinted past a blitz for 12 yards on third-and-10 and the Saints were in field-goal range.

Al Woods jumped offside as Johnson lined up for a 43-yard attempt, allowing New Orleans to burn another 90 seconds off the clock before Johnson made the shorter try.

Seattle's Jason Myers missed a pair of field goal attempts from 44 and 53 yards — the second into the open end of the stadium after Smith took another costly sack. Myers made a 50-yarder.

Kamara had 21 touches on New Orleans' 39 offensive plays in the first half. He was mostly ineffective on the ground, but Seattle couldn't slow him down in the pass game. He already had 108 yards receiving by halftime.

Four of his receptions came on the final drive of the half when his 31-yard catch-and-run out of the backfield set up his 13-yard TD catch and a 10-7 halftime lead.

Former Seahawks QB Matt Hasselbeck was inducted into the team's Ring of Honor at halftime. Hasselbeck, who played for Seattle from 2001-10, held most of the team's passing records until Wilson's arrival and led the Seahawks to their first Super Bowl appearance.

New Orleans starting left guard Andrus Peat injured his shoulder in the first half. He briefly returned but left again late in the second quarter. Blair appeared to injure his right knee late in the fourth quarter. He had major surgery on the knee early in the 2020 season.

Packers place Adams on COVID-19 list; Barry tests positive

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—The Green Bay Packers likely will have to face the unbeaten Arizona Cardinals without 2020 All-Pro receiver Davante Adams and defensive coordinator Joe Barry.

General manager Brian Gutekunst announced Monday afternoon that the team has placed Adams on the reserve/COVID-19 list. That announcement came just over an hour after coach Matt LaFleur confirmed that Barry had tested positive.

LaFleur said that Barry is fully vaccinated and therefore possibly could join the Packers (6-1) for Thursday night's game if he tested negative Tuesday and Wednesday.

"But I'm not going to hold my breath on that," LaFleur said.

LaFleur spoke to reporters before the announcement regarding Adams, who is tied for second in the NFL in catches (73) and is third in yards receiving (744). He did say there were "potentially some other issues with staff."

The reserve/COVID-19 list is for players who either test positive or have close contact with someone who's infected.

LaFleur said the Packers are in advanced protocols and conducted all of Monday's coaches meetings virtually. LaFleur said all team personnel have to wear masks while in the building, whether or not they're vaccinated.

The Packers are working through which assistant will be responsible for calling defensive plays Thursday if Barry's unavailable. One candidate could be defensive backs coach Jerry Gray, who has been a defensive coordinator with the Buffalo Bills (2001-05) and Tennessee Titans (2011-13).

"I think regardless of how we do it, it'll be a collective effort with everybody involved and having an input," LaFleur said. "But certainly you feel confident with a guy like Jerry, who's called it before and has had a top-five defense in this league. So we definitely have people that we feel are capable of getting the job done."

Injury-riddled Broncos get linebacker Kenny Young from Rams

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—The injury-riddled Denver Broncos acquired inside linebacker Kenny Young from the Los Angeles Rams on Monday, four days after they were gouged by third-string Cleveland running back D'Ernest Johnson.

The teams also exchanged 2024 late-round draft picks with the Rams (6-1) receiving a sixth-round selection and the Broncos (3-4) getting back a seventh-rounder.

Young is in the final year of his rookie contract that's paying him $2.183 million this year, and his departure means more playing time for third-round rookie Ernest Jones from South Carolina, who's only played 45 defensive snaps so far.

Still, the Rams are getting a minimal return for a key defensive playmaker. Young has started all seven games, a career high, and ranked second on the Rams roster with 46 tackles, including a team-leading six tackles for loss in his breakthrough fourth NFL season.

"Really tough decision," Rams coach Sean McVay said a couple of hours after the deal was completed. "Really for us, they had a need at linebacker, and really it was an opportunity to free up some space from some financials.

"Guys are going to be asked to step up. Very grateful for the contributions Kenny has made to our team over the last couple of years. He has been our guy that's played in a lot of single-backer defenses, whether it's Troy Reeder or Ernest Jones, they're going to be asked to step up and fill that void or that vacancy."

McVay called the cost savings the primary driver of the deal for the Rams.

"What it does is it gives you the opportunity to make decisions if opportunities present themselves, and just a little bit more flexibility. Even something as simple as flexing guys up from the practice squad. That costs money," McVay said. "There's a lot of layers to it, but being able to save some of that money was something that was beneficial.

"And also there's an investment in some of these younger backers. There's a lot of layers, but the main reason the decision was made is that it was financially driven for us."

Broncos coach Vic Fangio wasn't available Monday. He'll meet with the media Tuesday, when players return from a four-day break.

The Broncos, losers of four straight, have been hit hard at inside linebacker with both starters, Josey Jewell and Alexander Johnson, done for the season with torn chest muscles.

Johnson's replacement, Micah Kiser, went out in the first half at Cleveland on Thursday night with a groin injury, and his replacement, undrafted rookie and practice squad call-up Curtis Robinson is dealing with wrist and thumb injuries sustained in the Broncos' 17-14 loss to the Browns. Kiser was placed on IR the next day.

The Rams deal is the second in three days for Broncos first-year general manager George Paton, who acquired pass rusher Stephen Weatherly in a trade Saturday with the Minnesota Vikings, his former employer.

The Rams acquired Young, a UCLA product, from Baltimore in October 2019 in the trade that sent Marcus Peters to the Ravens to clear space for Jalen Ramsey. Los Angeles general manager Les Snead also might be clearing cap space for a bigger move with the surprising trade with Denver.

In 53 career NFL games, Young has collected 157 total tackles, including 16 for loss, 13 QB hits, 5½ sacks, four pass breakups, three forced fumbles, three fumble recoveries and one interception.

His 46 tackles this year are five shy of his career high set last year. His best game came last month against Tampa Bay in which he had 10 tackles, eight of them solo, three tackles for loss, a sack of Tom Brady, a forced fumble and an additional quarterback hit.

He was a fourth-round selection of the Ravens in 2018.

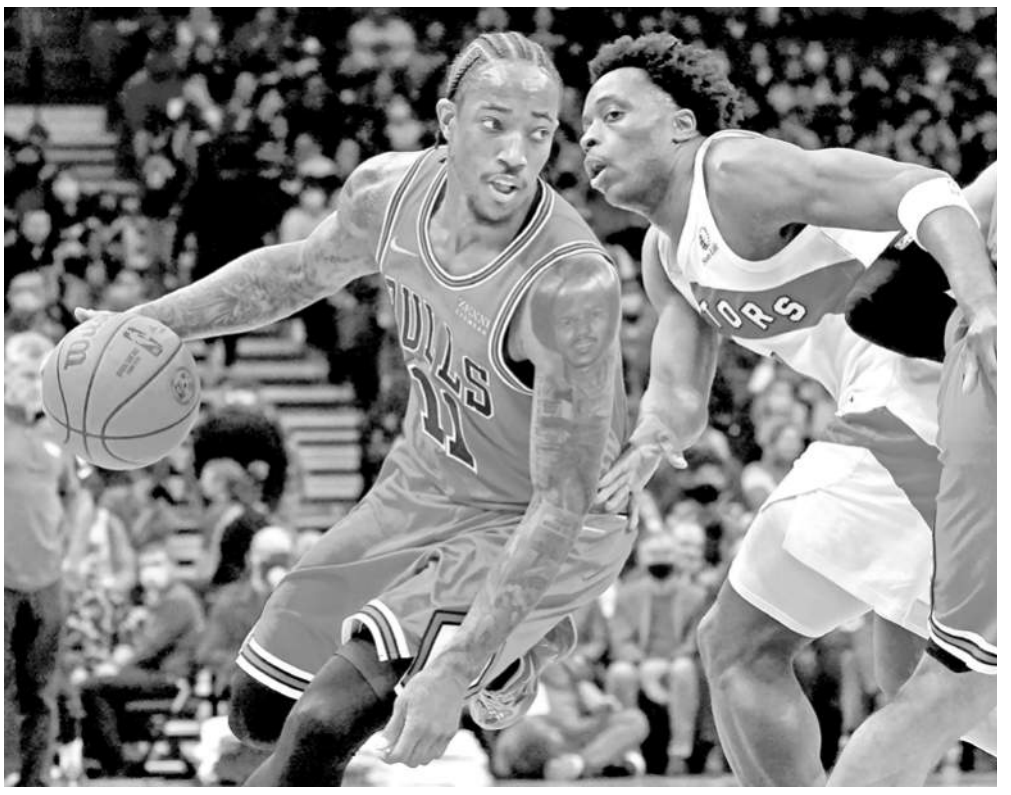
DeRozan, LaVine help Bulls beat Raptors for 4th straight win

TORONTO (AP)— DeMar DeRozan scored 26 points against his former team, Zach LaVine had 22 points and the Chicago Bulls opened their season with four straight wins for the first time since 1996-97, holding off the Toronto Raptors 111-108 on Monday night.

Nikola Vucevic scored 17 points and Lonzo Ball had 15 as the Bulls won their fourth straight meeting with Toronto. Ball shot 5 for 9 from 3-point range.

OG Anunoby scored 22 points and Gary Trent Jr. had 18 as the struggling Raptors lost for the third time in four games.

Toronto's Fred VanVleet scored 15 points and set a career high with 17 assists. Precious Achiuwa had 11 points and 11 rebounds for the Raptors, and rookie Scottie Barnes scored 13 points.



AP

Chicago Bulls forward DeMar DeRozan (11) moves the ball around Toronto Raptors forward OG Anunoby (3) during first-half NBA basketball game action in Toronto, Monday, Oct. 25, 2021.

Celtics 140, Hornets 129, OT

In Charlotte, Jayson Tatum scored a season-high 41 points, Jaylen Brown added 30, including an emphatic dunk in overtime, and Boston handed Charlotte its first loss of the season.

Dennis Schroder had nine of his 23 points in overtime, and Robert Williams added 12 points and 16 rebounds in a game that featured 28 lead changes.

Miles Bridges had 25 points and 10 rebounds and LaMelo Ball added 25 points on seven 3-pointers for the Hornets before fouling out in overtime. Kelly Oubre added 19 points for Charlotte, which was seeking its first 4-0 start in franchise history.

Both teams had a chance to win the game at the end of regulation but had difficulty inbounding the ball, resulting in neither team getting a shot off in the game's final 15 seconds.

Bucks 119, Pacers 109

In Indianapolis, Giannis Antetokounmpo finshed with 30 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists, and Khris Middleton added 27 points as defending NBA champion Milwaukee beat Indiana.

Coach Mike Budenholzer held out two injured starters — center Brook Lopez and guard Jrue Holiday— s well as key backup Bobby Portis. Milwaukee still had enough scoring punch to pull away from the Pacers, who have lost three of their first four games under new coach Rick Carlisle.

The Pacers were led by Malcolm Borgdon with 25 points and seven assists. Domantas Sabonis had 21 points, 13 rebounds and five assists

It was Middleton's four-point play to close the first-quarter scoring that changed the game. It broke a 30-30 tie, and Milwaukee never trailed again.

Heat 107, Magic 90

In Miami, Jimmy Butler scored 36 points on 15-for-21 shooting, Bam Adebayo added 16 points and 13 rebounds and Miami pulled away in the fourth quarter to beat Orlando.

Markieff Morris had 16 points off the Miami bench, and Tyler Herro finished with 13 points, five rebounds and nine assists for the Heat.

Miami was 19 for 19 from the foul line, tying the second-most makes without a miss in team history. The Heat were 30 for 30 against Boston on March 24, 1993.

Franz Wagner and Jalen Suggs led Orlando with 15 points, while Cole Anthony and R.J. Hampton each added 12 for the Magic. Mo Bamba and Robin Lopez had 11 apiece for Orlando.

Butler also had five steals, and did the bulk of his scoring work at the rim for Miami.

Hawks 122, Pistons 104

In Atlanta, Trae Young had 32 points and nine assists and John Collins scored 22 in Atlanta's win over Detroit.

The Hawks have won 24 of their last 30 home games, including playoff games, dating to Feb. 21.

The Pistons' Kelly Olynyk had 17 of his 21 points in the first half and Saddiq Bey scored 21 for Detroit, which dropped to 0-3.

Olynyk and Josh Johnson were new additions to the Pistons' starting lineup — Olynyk replacing the injured Jerami Grant and Johnson taking the spot of Frank Jackson.

Nets 104, Wizards 90

In New York, Kevin Durant scored 25 points and Brooklyn bounced back from a poor finish a day earlier with a blistering start that gave them a victory over Washington.

Patty Mills made five 3-pointers and added 21 points off the bench, while James Harden finished with 14 points, nine assists and six rebounds.

The Nets were dominated in the second half of a 111-95 loss to Charlotte on Sunday in their home opener, which featured protests by fans over the vaccine mandate that has kept Kyrie Irving from playing for Brooklyn. They overcame poor 3-point shooting nights from Harden (1 for 8) and Joe Harris (3 for 11) by holding Washington below 35% shooting.

Washington's Bradley Beal scored 19 points but shot 8 for 22 after missing a game with a bruised right hip. The Wizards won their first two games but were already down by 18 in this one by the time the Nets honored Spencer Dinwiddie with a video tribute after the first quarter of his return to Barclays Center.

Pelicans 107, Timberwolves 98

In Minneapolis, Brandon Ingram scored 27 points, Jonas Valanciunas had 22 points and 23 rebounds, and New Orleans snapped its season-opening, three-game losing streak.

Devonte' Graham added 21 points for New Orleans, which was again without injured star Zion Williamson. Nickeil Alexander-Walker had 17 points for the Pelicans, who had a 21-point lead trimmed to four points late in the third quarter.

Minnesota had its two-game win streak halted as its offense failed to find a rhythm until Anthony Edwards got the offense and the crowd going by scoring 21 of his 28 points in the third.

Karl-Anthony Towns had 32 points and 14 rebounds, and Patrick Beverly added 13 points off the bench.

A game after tying a franchise record with 30 turnovers, New Orleans was in sync early, using the extra pass to get its offense going. The Pelicans had eight assists as a team on their first nine baskets.

Clippers 116, Trail Blazers 86

In Los Angeles, Luke Kennard scored 23 points, tying his career high with six 3-pointers, and Los Angeles ran away early to beat Portland for its first win of the season.

Reggie Jackson added 18 points and Paul George had 16 points to help the Clippers avoid their first 0-3 start since 2010-11, when coach Vinny Del Negro was in his first season.

CJ McCollum scored 20 points for the Blazers in their first road game of the season. Damian Lillard was held to 12 points on 4 of 15 shooting. Portland shot 36% from the floor and had 15 assists, both lows in the young season. The Clippers' defense never let the Blazers get an extended run going in and forced 30 turnovers.

Fall Classic fixture Morton faces World Series newbie Valdez

HOUSTON (AP)—Though the uniform keeps changing, Charlie Morton is becoming a Fall Classic fixture, set to start in the World Series for the third time in five seasons this week.

Houston Astros lefty Framber Valdez is virtually unknown to a national audience, with the 27-year-old poised to make his Series debut when he pitches against Morton and the Atlanta Braves in Game 1 on Tuesday night.

Asked to describe himself to those who might be seeing him on the mound for the first time, the burly Valdez flashed a huge grin before answering.

"I think of myself as a happy man," he said in Spanish through a translator. "I've had a lot of problems in the past, but I've known how to get past those and overcome those to get to where I am today. It's just been a lot of sacrifice and hard work."

Morton pitched for Houston from 2017-18, winning Game 7 of the 2017 World Series in relief at Dodger Stadium. He's trying to approach this start just like any of the other 306 in his 14-year career and not be distracted by his history with the Astros.

"But I'm sure I'm going to feel some things when I get on that mound," he said. "I don't think there's any way not to."

Though it's been three years since he left Houston and he's on his second team since then, the veteran right-hander remains a favorite of many Astros. All-Star second baseman Jose Altuve was asked what kind of teammate Morton was.

"The best you can ever have," Altuve said. "He's that good. He's amazing. I only have good things to say about him."

This will be the second consecutive year Morton will face the Astros in the postseason after a dominant performance against them with Tampa Bay. Morton threw five scoreless innings to win Game 2 of the 2020 AL Championship Series before pitching scoreless ball into the sixth inning of Game 7 for the win that sent the Rays to last year's World Series.

"He got us good last year," Houston third baseman Alex Bregman said, shaking his head before adding that Morton is "one of everybody's favorite teammates of all-time."

Told of those comments from Altuve and Bregman, Morton dropped his head and pooched out his lip, looking like a sad kid before responding.

"I'm really humbled that they would say that," he said before a long pause. "That's pretty great."

Tuesday will mark Morton's 16th postseason start and 17th appearance. The only relief outing came in Game 7 of the 2017 World Series, when he took over in the sixth and allowed one run in four innings to shut the door on the Dodgers and secure Houston's only championship.

Morton, who turns 38 next month, was a 14-game winner in his first year with the Braves and tied for the major league lead with 33 starts. Tuesday will be his fourth start of this postseason after taking the loss in Game 1 of the NLDS against Milwaukee and not getting a decision in Game 4 of that series or Game 3 of the NLCS.

Valdez made his postseason debut in last year's pandemic-shortened season and was key to Houston's playoff run. He came on in relief and won the first-round opener against Minnesota before pitching Houston to victory in a Game 2 start in the Division Series versus rival Oakland. Valdez lost the opening game of the ALCS but bounced back by allowing one run and striking out nine in a Game 6 win to keep Houston's season alive.

He had a tough start to the postseason this year and permitted a combined seven runs over seven innings in two starts—one in the Division Series and one in the ALCS—before spinning a gem in his most recent outing.

Valdez gave up just three hits and one run across eight innings in a win over the Red Sox at Fenway Park to give the Astros a 3-2 lead in the series and save a taxed bullpen.

As he prepares to pitch on baseball's biggest stage, Valdez can hardly believe how far he's come since signing with the Astros out of the Dominican Republic in 2015.

"Back in 2014 and 2015 I wouldn't have thought of being a starter in Game 1 of the World Series, but now it's real and I appreciate it," he said. "It's just a privilege."

Asked about the difference between his two starts in the ALCS, Valdez said he found a way to rein in his excitement and not let the moment get too big for him.

"For me it's a matter of controlling my emotions, controlling the adrenaline," he said. "Just worry about executing my pitches, throwing my pitches with intensity and not trying to be too perfect with everything and just let the results follow from there."

The Astros need him to build on his last big game to help stabilize a pitching staff that will be without top starter Lance McCullers in the World Series. McCullers was sidelined for the ALCS after straining a muscle in his forearm in Game 4 of the Division Series, and announced Monday he won't return this season.

Final Four set in Tinian caging

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Team Kio will face Team CNMI and Devil Dog Warriors will square off against Rampage in the single elimination playoffs of the Island-wide Men's Bud Light Basketball League this Friday, Oct. 29, at the Tinian Multi-Purpose Gymnasium.

The Final Four was set after SMA Flyers played spoiler and denied RNV a playoff spot with a 48-44 win in the second game last Monday, while Devil Dog Warriors routed Rampage in a no-bearing first game, 81-56.

RNV finished tied with Team CNMI with a 5-9 record, but was left outside of the postseason picture looking in as Team CNMI edged them via quotient. Head-to-head, Team CNMI beat RNV, 76-53, in the first round last Sept. 17. RNV exacted its vengeance last Oct. 20 with a 76-75 nipping of Team CNMI in the second round. The results of both matches gave Team CNMI a plus 12 quotient.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Referee Dawn Sarmiento explains the FIBA rules to Devil Dog Warriors and Rampage players before their game in the Island-wide Men's Bud Light Basketball League last Monday at the Tinian Multi-Purpose Gymnasium.

Despite playing with just six players SMA actually spotted RNV, 16-0, in the first quarter before the latter rallied to make a game of it. RNV, playing with a full complement of players, still had a chance to tie the game with 10 seconds left in the clock. However, their ploy to make a 3-pointer plus fish a foul failed and SMA Flyers finished its season on a winning note.

Jason and Janlery Doria led the charge for SMA with 12 and 10 points, respectively. RNV bowed out of playoff contention led by the 12 points of Jhello Bungabong.

Earlier, Devil Dog Warriors and Rampage played like there was no tomorrow in their Final Four preview. Regardless who won both teams will still face each other in the Final Four as they are firmly entrenched in the second and third spots.

The physicality of play led to Rampage's Tom Ericson being taken to the hospital after he collided with a Devil Dog Warriors player following a rebound play.

Rampage's Wesley Walker, Leo Pascua, Rudy Borja, and Jayron Epity also were misfiring all night and as Devil Dog Warriors blew the game wide open in the second half. Jake Montgomery led three Devil Dog Warriors that wound up with 20 or more points with 29. Damon Kada added 24, while Zjonti Kubinski chipped in 22 for the 11-3 team.

Rampage, which finished the eliminations with a 10-4 card, was paced by the 26 points of Walker with Epity adding 16 markers.

The first game of the playoffs this Friday will have Team Kio and Team CNMI contesting the first finals slot beginning at 6pm. The second game will then have Rampage taking on Devil Dog Warriors starting at 8pm.

First Game

Devil Dog Warriors 81 – Montgomery 29, Kada 24, Kubinski 22, Lapan 4, Ogaldez 2.

Rampage 56 – Walker 26, J. Epity 16, Cepeda 8, Pascua 3, Untalan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-22, 30-32, 62-42, 81-56.

Second Game

SMA Flyers 48 – Ja. Doria 12, Jan. Doria 10, Cajilla 9, Fletcher 6, Opanda 6, Villagracia 5.

RNV 44 – Bungabong 12, Udaundo 9, Borca 8, Rizardo 7, Laoyon 4, Bacuyag 2, Tortor 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-0, 27-8, 33-28, 48-44.

MINI

From Page 20

"So this time, we are coming to them, bringing basketball to our children, in their respective villages," Lee said.

Through "Bola," children who are 12 years old and below will learn fundamentals of basketball in a fun and interactive setting. NMIBF officials and members of the NMI National Team Program, through the guidance of FIBA Oceania, will conduct the sessions. The first stop of "Bola" is at Koblerville Basketball Court on Nov. 6 (from 4pm to 6pm) and the session is open to Koblerville and San Antonio residents. The remaining schedule are as follows: Nov. 7 at Garapan Basketball Court; Nov. 13 at Civic Center Basketbal Court for Susupe residents; Nov. 14 at Kagman Community Center; Nov. 20 at Chinatown Court; Dec. 4 at Dandan Basketbal Court for Dandan and San Vicente residents; and Dec. 5 at As Matuis Basketball Court for Tanapag and San Roque residents. Registration for the program is free and can be made by sending email to nmibf.bola@gmail.com. Registration and waiver forms will also be available at the offices of various government agencies and the NMIBF Facebook page.

"If your village is not on the list, don't worry, we will come to you, as this will be an continues program. We will cover all three islands," NMIBF vice president David John Apatang said.

The NMIBF has been reaching out to different public and private agencies to help the federation conduct the program. The group is also encouraging parents, community leaders, and other interested individuals to join the session and observe the event, as the program will cover coaches education and recruitment, too.

"We want to identify and develop coaches that will run the program, with the assistance of the NMIBF, on a regular basis within their respective villages. Eventually, this program will be owned by each village, they will form their own team in different age groups and compete with other villages, thus reviving the once popular inter-village basketball league where the household names in CNMI basketball came," Lee said.

The NMIBF will announce more information about "Bola" and its culmination event as the program progresses. For updates, check the NMIBF at https://www.facebook.com/NMIBasketballFederation. ***(PR)***

TRAC

From Page 20

tchon seconded Castro when he said associate membership in World Triathlon will now open a lot of doors for TRAC.

"We immediately were promised technical and financial support. In fact, they are now pushing TRAC to create a project or plan especially for the development of triathlon targeting mostly the women and youth. They are willing to help support the CNMI triathlon federation financially," he said.

Castro along with other TRAC officials took part in the virtual World Triathlon Congress while streaming the live proceedings at Majesty Restaurant in Garapan. Joining Castro in viewing the virtual congress were Jojo Valencia, Ambet Omampo, Ronald Villafria, Ronnie Santos, Vernice and Andy Estepa, and Rowena Houck. Sitchon wasn't able to join the proceedings as he is recuperating from minor surgery.

"The CNMI is now officially a part of World Triathlon family and there are a lot of people who made this journey possible. I would like to recognize and thank TRAC officers and board members, Mr. Tom Carrasco of Triathlon Philippines; Noriko Namakura and Shin Otsuka, president of Japan Triathlon Union, who elevated our case to confederation level; Terry Sheldrake of Oceania Triathlon Union; and Mr. Barry Siff, ITU board members who cared to listen and made the case in behalf of the CNMI to the International Triathlon Union executive board all the way to its approval. To ITU secretary general Antonio Arimany, president Jerry Tan of NMASA, and president Michelle Cooper of Oceania Triathlon Union, TRAC is forever grateful!" said Castro.

TRAC's road to becoming a World Triathlon associate member took more than three years to become reality, according to Castro.

"This was a lengthy process that begun in 2018. When we submitted the last requirements to WT during the first quarter, we were advised beforehand that we may/or may not be accepted as member at WT Congress, but when we got an email advising us of the Congress and saw the 2021 World Triathlon Congress Package and the CNMI was in the agenda, I knew that this is going to happen and this was it."

On whether becoming a full member of World Triathlon is in its plans, Castro said one criteria of becoming a full-fledged member is the associate member must be part of the International Olympic Committee, which the CNMI currently is not.

"Northern Mariana Islands Olympic recognition is the key and this is something that [the Northern Marianas Sports Association] will come into play and I believe NMASA president Jerry Tan made an initiative to revive the CNMI's inclusion to the Olympic movement."

World Triathlon is the international governing body for the multi-sport disciplines of triathlon, duathlon, aquathlon and other nonstandard variations. World Triathlon hosts the top level international race series the ITU World Triathlon Series and the ITU Triathlon World Cup. It was founded as the International Triathlon Union in April 1, 1989. It officially adopted its new identity of World Triathlon in October 2020 in order to better serve the development of the sport in all its forms in the clearest possible way. It continues to be the only organization that can award the titles of World Triathlon Champions.

TANHOLDINGS

From Page 20

cited that the TanHoldings Tennis Classic is back in the court starting this weekend, the tournament is not completely back to normal as they are still missing off-island participants.

"All the off-island players cannot come and join for two years now. Last year was COVID-19 and this year was because of the five-day quarantine," she said

The TanHoldings Tennis Classic also skipped 2018 due to the destruction brought by Super Typhoon Yutu on island infrastructure that include local tennis courts.

All matches in the TanHoldings Tennis Classic will have "with add" scoring with best-of-three sets and a third set super tie breaker (except for boys and girls U10). In addition, all consolation matches will be 8-point pro sets game.

For more information on the TanHoldings Tennis Classic, call 670-235-0561 ext. 117. To register, click on https://www.tournamentsoftware.com/user/login?ReturnUrl=%2findividual-entry%2f9003BA82-262D-4696-A0CC-21583C13EC9A.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	2	1	.667	—
Philadelphia	2	1	.667	—
Brooklyn	2	2	.500	½
Boston	2	2	.500	½
Toronto	1	3	.250	1½

Southeast Division

Charlotte	3	1	.750	—
Miami	2	1	.667	½
Washington	2	1	.667	½
Atlanta	2	1	.667	½
Orlando	1	3	.250	2

Central Division

Chicago	4	0	1.000	—
Milwaukee	3	1	.750	1
Cleveland	2	2	.500	2
Indiana	1	3	.250	3
Detroit	0	3	.000	3½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Memphis	2	1	.667	—
Dallas	1	1	.500	½
Houston	1	2	.333	1
San Antonio	1	2	.333	1
New Orleans	1	3	.250	1½

Northwest Division

Utah	2	0	1.000	—
Denver	2	1	.667	½
Minnesota	2	1	.667	½
Portland	1	2	.333	1½
Oklahoma City	0	3	.000	2½

Pacific Division

Golden State	3	0	1.000	—
Phoenix	1	2	.333	2
L.A. Clippers	1	2	.333	2
L.A. Lakers	1	2	.333	2
Sacramento	1	2	.333	2

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	4	2	0	.667	203	98
New England	3	4	0	.429	179	140
N.Y. Jets	1	5	0	.167	80	175
Miami	1	6	0	.143	127	207

South

Tennessee	5	2	0	.714	193	164
Indianapolis	3	4	0	.429	169	149
Jacksonville	1	5	0	.167	116	172
Houston	1	6	0	.143	97	203

North

Baltimore	5	2	0	.714	187	164
Cincinnati	5	2	0	.714	189	128
Cleveland	4	3	0	.571	173	165
Pittsburgh	3	3	0	.500	117	132

West

Las Vegas	5	2	0	.714	180	166
L.A. Chargers	4	2	0	.667	148	150
Denver	3	4	0	.429	140	127
Kansas City	3	4	0	.429	188	203

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

Dallas	5	1	0	.833	205	146
N.Y. Giants	2	5	0	.286	139	180
Philadelphia	2	5	0	.286	159	185
Washington	2	5	0	.286	146	210

South

Tampa Bay	6	1	0	.857	233	147
New Orleans	4	2	0	.667	140	101
Atlanta	3	3	0	.500	135	176
Carolina	3	4	0	.429	146	146

North

Green Bay	6	1	0	.857	168	146
Minnesota	3	3	0	.500	147	137
Chicago	3	4	0	.429	101	162
Detroit	0	7	0	.000	128	200

West

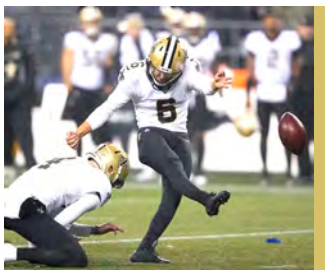
Arizona	7	0	0	1.000	225	114
L.A. Rams	6	1	0	.857	207	146
San Francisco	2	4	0	.333	135	149
Seattle	2	5	0	.286	150	162

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

Island-wide Men's Bud Light Basketball League

Kio	14	0	RNV	5	9
Marines Devil Dogs	11	3	FPA Power Builders	4	10
Rampage	10	4	SMA Flyers	4	10
CNMI	5	9	Navy KO'BEE's	3	11



Saints capitalize on Seahawks' mistakes for 13-10 win

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Sports

Final Four set in Tinian caging

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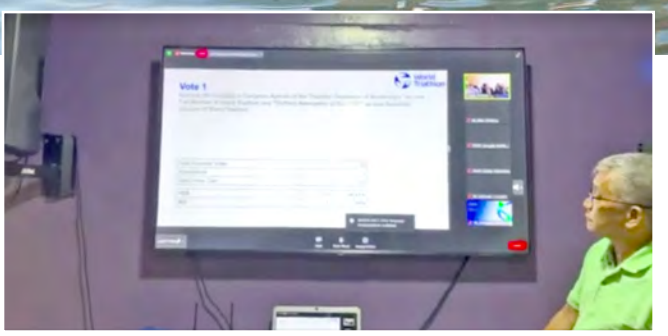
CNMI now part of World Triathlon



MARK RABAGO/CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants of the Paupau 5150 Taga Triathlon pose for a group photo before the start of the swim split last Aug. 21 in the waters off Paupau Beach. Inset, Triathlon Association of the CNMI's Ambet Omampo looks at the results of the World Triathlon Congress voting that saw TRAC voted in as an associate member while live streaming the event Sunday at Majesty Restaurant.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Triathlon Association of the CNMI is now an associate member of World Triathlon after it was granted the designation during Sunday's virtual World Triathlon Congress.

In a vote of member federations, TRAC's application to become an associate member received 71 yes votes to only one no vote for a 98.61% affirmative vote. There were a total of 83 possible votes, but only 72 World Triathlon members managed to cast ballots.

TRAC secretary general Ricky Castro said becoming an associate member of World Triathlon opens a lot of opportunities for the local triathlon federation to further grow the sport in the CNMI.

"This is one big leap for the sport of triathlon in the CNMI. We can now have full access on the resources of World Triathlon enjoyed by member states," he said.

TRAC president Manny Si-

See TRAC on Page 19

TanHoldings Tennis Classic returns this weekend

By MARK RABAGO
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After an absence of a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the TanHoldings Tennis Classic will return starting this weekend at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Tournament director Lydia Tan said the competition kicks off with the youth division this weekend from Oct. 29 to Oct. 31, while the second week of the tournament—from Nov. 5 to Nov. 7—will have 18-and-over players seeing action.

"I'm really happy we can have this tournament this year since we miss it last year due to COVID-19. This way will make the tennis community excited," she said.

A total of six divisions are up for grabs in the youth competition. In the boys 18-and-under, Jimin Woo is the top seed with Andy Kim the No. 2 seed.

In the boys 16-and-under singles, the top seed is Cody Shimizu with Minseong Kim ranked No. 2. The boys 14-and-under have Henry Choi as the first seed with Nason Wessel the No. 2 seed. In the girls 14-and-under, Irin Chung and Hoo Wang are the Top 2 seeds.

In the boys 14-and-under doubles, Nason Wessel and Henry Choi are the No. 1 seeds with Henry Yeom and Ki Won Lee the second seeds. The boys 12-and-under singles have Yutaka Kadokura as the No. 1 seed and Eamon Tang the second seed.

Tan said while she's ex-

See TANHOLDINGS on Page 19

Mini basketball program goes to villages

After the success of its summer camp, the Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation is bringing the sport to the heart of the community with the launching of a village outreach program next month.

The Mini Basketball Village Outreach Program dubbed as "Bola," which means ball in Chamorro, will initially cover 10 villages on Saipan and will also be offered in other villages and on Tinian and Rota.

"The NMIBF and FIBA Oceania are pleased to announce the formal launching of Bola, as we reach out to our villages, teach our children skills and values on and off the court, and engage them in activities that promote health and wellness," NMIBF president James Lee said.

The NMIBF first implemented FIBA mini basketball program in August when it partnered with the Tan Siu Lin Foundation for a summer camp. The program had a good turnout, but the NMIBF learned that more children were interested to join, but could not go to the venue because of transportation concerns.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this undated file photo, two children play at the Dandan Basketball Court. The Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation will bring the Mini Basketball Village Outreach Program to Dandan and nine other villages, starting next month.

See MINI on Page 19